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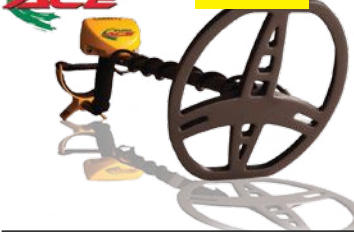
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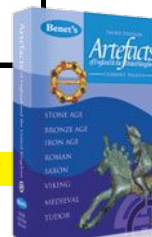
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Publishers

Dan Golbourn and Sally Constantin

Editor

Greg Payne greg@acguk.com

Assistant Editor & Design

Judith Barclay judith@acguk.com

Advertising

Dan Golbourn dan@acguk.com

Design & Layout

Christine Jennett

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Front Cover

Pete Cross detecting in Hertfordshire.
Read his article on page 18.

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King John
silver penny
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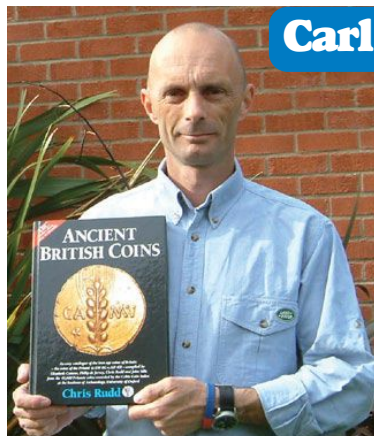
Gold
thimble
Page 61



Cupid button
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Victoria
half sovereign
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Carl looked in a book and got more than he expected

Carl was sorting through a tin of stuff he'd found in 1991-94. He came across a small Celtic silver he couldn't identify. So he Googled it. No luck. So he looked in *Ancient British Coins*. It wasn't there. So he asked Liz. She said it was a new type and offered to auction it for him. It fetched £5,200 - a record price for an ancient British silver coin. "I'd like to thank Liz and Chris for all their help" says Carl. "If I hadn't bought *ABC* and talked to Liz my coin would probably have gone on eBay for £1." Maybe it's time you got *ABC* (buy direct from Chris Rudd, £75 post free). Maybe it's time you talked to Liz. For a free identification, a free valuation and a free catalogue phone Liz: **07990 840 816**. Chris Rudd, PO Box 222, Aylsham, Norfolk NR11 6TY.



Carl's Crown silver unit.
Sold by Liz for £5,200

"I'm over the moon" says Carl Everitt.
"They even named the coin after me."

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Chris Rudd



Readers' Letters

Don't bottle it up! If you feel strongly about something, or would just like to share your experiences, thoughts or tips with other readers, write us a letter. A year's subscription to *Treasure Hunting* (worth £45) goes to the best letter each month. NB. If using E-mail please include your full name and address.

Address your letters to: The Editor, *Treasure Hunting*, Greenlight Publishing, 119 Newland Street, Witham, Essex CM8 1WF
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WINNING LETTER

*Alan wins a year's subscription to **Treasure Hunting***

Earlier this year I wrote an article in two parts that appeared in *Treasure Hunting* under the heading 'Ray's Roman Collection'. My article related to the hundreds of Roman finds from a field in Warwickshire all dating back to the Roman Occupation.

Ray Simpson, a member of the Coventry Heritage Detector Club, has been searching the same site for over 20 years and never comes away empty handed; the finds just keep turning up every time he visits. Although Ray finds plenty of artefacts the majority of his finds are Roman bronze coins. Over the years Ray has amassed literally hundreds of them. My article mentioned that Sam Moorhead of the British Museum had rated the finds and the site of such important significance that he visited Ray's home and catalogued his entire collection, a task that took him two days.

Since my article, and despite a recent illness, Ray has continued to search the site and has turned up various other items. At one of our club meetings he entered a coin into the open finds competition and once the voting had finished he handed it to our FLO, Teresa Gilmore, who attends some of our meetings. Teresa took the

A Lesson We Should All Learn



The coin is a copper alloy Roman fraction of a *nummus* of Diocletian (AD 284-305), dating to AD 303 (Reece Period 15). VOT/XX/AVGG in wreath reverse type. Mint: Trier, Germany. RIC VI, p. 201, no. 610a; P. Strauss, *Les monnaies divisionnaires de Trèves*, in *Revue Numismatique* 1954, p. 51, no. 11 (same pair of dies). Diameter: 14.3mm. Thickness: 1.6mm. Weight: 1.1gm.

coin back to the Birmingham Museum, where she is based, and Ray thought no more of it until he received an e-mail from her regarding the coin that he had considered just a Roman bronze 'grot'. Subsequently she asked the opinion of the British Museum, and it was identified as being extremely rare; in fact, only three were known to exist in the world.

Professor Sam Moorhead

and Dr. Vincent Drost have shown a great deal of interest in acquiring it for the British Museum.

Naturally, Ray was over the moon to receive the news; but ironically, when he entered the coin into the club's open finds competition it received only one vote and that was from Ray himself! This just goes to show that we don't always recognise exactly what we find and expert

opinion should always be sought. The coin may not look like much, but its extreme rarity makes it very sought after.

The moral of the story is not to just throw those old bronze grots away without knowing exactly what they are. Sam Moorhead, the British Museum's expert on Roman Coins had told Ray, when visiting his house, that old Roman grots often reveal much more about the history of a site than the more intrinsically valuable silver and gold ones.

It is described below, as taken from the Portable Antiquities Scheme website:-

Notes: The coin celebrates Diocletian's vicennalia (i.e. the 20th anniversary of his reign) in September 303. This kind of fractions is extremely rare. Two examples are recorded by Pierre Strauss for Diocletian. One is now in the Cabinet des Médailles in Paris, the other one was sold at auction in 1954 (sale Münzen und Medallien XIII, 1954, no. 467). Another example was recently sold in CNG Electronic Auction 295, 2013, no. 503.

This is a find of note and has been designated for inclusion in the British Numismatic Journal 'Coin Register'.

Alan Charlish, Coventry

When I receive *Treasure Hunting* each month I read the articles and look at all the finds made by the inland detectorists such as gold sovereigns, hammered coins, medieval bracelets, Roman coins etc., which all seem to be run-of-the-mill finds for them.

However, for beach detectorists, life is not so fruitful. I detect the beaches in South Devon and know quite a few other searchers in the area. It appears that most of my friends, like me, seem very happy with the meagre finds of modern

and post-1930 coins and the occasional piece of jewellery. I personally found a 1940 shilling a few weeks ago and was thrilled with that particular find.

I use a C.Scope 4Pi and a Garrett, one for wet sand, the other for dry. I am happy with my two machines – others searching the beaches around here use different detectors but basically the finds are all very similar whichever machine is being used. Don't get me

wrong! I absolutely love going to the beach, whatever the weather and spend two or three hours poking around and enjoying just being out in the fresh air. I would love to try inland detecting but I feel doing this is a much more serious hobby than beach detecting. Reading the articles it appears the inland searches are more organised and time-consuming sometimes lasting all day (rather than beach searches

where I just say to my wife I am just going to pop down the beach for an hour!)

I take my hat off to the people detecting on farms etc. and it is great that they are able to uncover so much of our history; I was amazed when I saw the Staffordshire Hoard in Birmingham a few years ago. It was wonderful. I am never going to find anything like that on the Devon beaches but I am very happy with my finds and maybe one day a maritime treasure will turn up.

Barry Rodwell, Devon

Readers' Letters

Thank You

I am writing to ask you to pass on a big 'Thank You' to one of your readers. I don't know his name but on a windy campsite near Whitby he found my wedding ring, which I had lost when helping a neighbour to take down her awning.

He refused to take anything

for his trouble but just asked that I write to your magazine as detecting often has a negative image.

I cannot thank him enough and please reassure him that I will make a donation to his suggested charity.

Kevin Hamblin

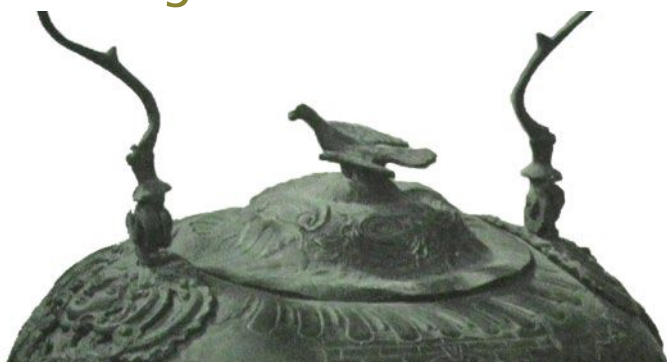
More Lead Balls

Further to Kevin Allsworth's letter in the August issue ('Lead Balls Mystery'), I would suggest that they are probably 'drilled bullets' as they are known and widely used by anglers for adding extra weight to their rigs. They can be obtained in sizes up to 4oz from any tackle shop.

Those of an ounce or less are now made of an alloy, rather than lead to protect wildlife from lead poisoning if they ingest them. Any found near water or on the beach were probably used for this purpose.

Geoff Hutton, Bradford

Eagle Identification



The eagle shown in Julian Evan-Hart's article 'The Ditch Digger' Figs.7a & b on page 49 of the July issue is not, I'm sorry to say, Celtic or Roman. A number of these have crossed my desk in recent years.

As the illustration shows they are handles from kettles and are of 18th or early 19th century date.

Sorry to disappoint!

David Williams, FLO for Surrey and East Berkshire

Engagement Ring Recovered



Samantha wearing the ring, with her daughter and Ben.

It was an early morning in May when I decided to go for a little hunt on the beach in Felixstowe, where I live.

The hunt turned up nothing but fishing weight after fishing weight along with the modern coinage, that being namely the dreaded 2p. For some reason, and I'm sure other beach detectorists can confirm this, it is the most commonly found coin on our beaches. Perhaps it is now used by the children on top of their sand castles? I would love to know why, any ideas?

Returning home from a pretty dismal hunt with nothing to inspect or research, I decided to give my equipment a good clean.

A few hours later it was '180 Felixstowe Hunter' to the rescue (this is my detecting name on the Internet). A lady posted on a social media site that she had lost her engagement ring on Felixstowe beach. After 20 minutes or so searching for it, she couldn't locate it. My fiancé saw the post on the media site and I said I'd go and have a look. I had no option but to find it as my fiancé told the lady that I would definitely find it (no pressure then!).

On arrival I found the lady with her small child in a buggy.

She showed me roughly where she believed the ring may have fallen off. I therefore immediately got to work, especially as the tide was coming in very quickly. Armed with my Ace 250 and Nel Tornado coil (all freshly cleaned from my morning's dismal hunt), I searched the area for a while and there was no sign of the ring.

Starting to feel like it was lost to the sea forever, I went around the area again. This time I struck it lucky just a couple of metres away from where I searched the first time.

There in all its loveliness was the lady's white gold engagement ring, about five minutes away from being another item lost to the sea forever. The lady was so happy she screamed with excitement and I'm sure, relief. She offered me anything I wanted she was so happy. But I didn't want anything in return other than a photo to send to my favourite magazine *Treasure Hunting* and she happily obliged. I just love a happy ending and love metal detecting stories like this. To the lady who lost her ring, Samantha, it was my pleasure.

Ben Bradshaw aka 180 Felixstowe Hunter, Felixstowe, Suffolk

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News and Views

A metal detectorist named Paul recently unearthed a very rare and unusual artefact. That in itself isn't such an unusual occurrence in our hobby, but the fact that it's not gold, silver or even copper alloy perhaps is. It is something made from lead, a metal which mostly arrives in our finds pouches as dross or musket balls.

Paul was out detecting a pasture one sunny evening near Shottle in Derbyshire with his colleague Tony, when his XP Goldmaxx Power gave a good crisp signal which "nearly blew my ears off" he recalls. Digging down through the grass roots and soil at around 8 inches depth he could see the creamy white patina of what

Rare 17th Century Lead Sundial

was clearly something made of lead. Clearing the soil around its edges he lifted it clear, thinking it was just a puzzling but plain old sheet of thick metal.

As he began removing the adherent soil and turned it over it became clear his find was indeed something rather special. Being a pastureland site the condition of the find was superb given that it was made of such a soft metal.

He called Tony over to



examine his find. The discovery in question was a lovely complete sundial measuring 6.5cm square. Amazingly there is no question as to its precise age as despite the rich patina indicating this to be considerable, Paul's find as part of its design bears the date 1663. After cleaning the artefact Paul emailed The British Sundial Society who was very excited about its discovery. So far it has found nothing similar in its records.

Paul's local FLO has also been emailed, but at the time

of writing no further details have been forthcoming. From my perspective I really like such finds that prove to be enigmatic but are often providers of more information about our heritage through further research.

Many years ago I was detecting a field next to a large 1600s period building and I also located a piece of leaden sundial. Back then I assumed it had come from the garden of the nearby property and such an original garden venue is most likely from where this latest and complete discovery originates from. My example had done serious battle with the plough many times and was little more than a 3cm shard of its former self.

Paul would be very interested to hear through *Treasure Hunting* magazine if anyone has any further details relating to his find, or indeed has made a similar find themselves. This is yet another remarkable metal detecting discovery which I am sure will provide some very interesting associated research.

Julian Evan-Hart

Roman Coin Hoard Found in School Grounds

A pot containing up to 300 Roman coins has been discovered in the grounds of the Ridgeway Primary School, Reading during an archaeological dig of the site before redevelopment work is carried out.



It is thought that the pot of coins was buried by a Roman citizen or farmer for safekeeping possibly during a time of crisis or threat. Investigations have shown that there was probably a small Roman farm or hamlet on the site. The coins have been sent to a specialist to be cleaned, conserved and to ascertain their precise number, date and denomination.

Head teacher Madelaine Cosgrove said "Both pupils and staff are very excited about this discovery and look forward to the story unfolding so that it can be preserved as part of the heritage of our school."

Essex Numismatic Society

Stuart Adams of the Haverling Numismatic Society was the speaker at our meeting on 22 May when he spoke on 'Newspaper Advertising Tickets and Tokens' which were prevalent in the late 19th and early 20th centuries. His talk was illustrated with a slide presentation and was followed by the usual Question & Answer session.

At our meeting on August 28 several of our members will

present short talks on a variety of subjects.

Prospective members and/or visitors for whom there is a £2 entry fee are always welcome and for further details please see our notice board which is located in the first floor corridor alongside the coin displays at the Chelmsford Museum, or call Bob Thomas on 01277 656627 or 07798 786886.

Bob Thomas, Hon Secretary

UKDN May Finds of the Month



The outright winner of Coin of the Month goes to 'Hectorsfarm' from Shepway for finding this silver denarius of Diva Faustina, c.AD 147.

Congratulations go to both well-deserved winners and looking forward to seeing what next month's finds will produce.

UK DETECTOR NET is the premier metal detecting site in the UK and has been in existence since 1994. It must be one of the longest-established metal detecting sites in the world, with a member list exceeding 7,000. Its aims are to promote responsible detecting within the UK, bringing together detectorists everywhere to discuss the hobby, their finds, the machines they use and a million and one other detecting related subjects that they are likely to



Artefact of the Month with 91% of the votes goes to 'topdog son' for this impressive gold posy ring inscribed feare god and love mee .

talk about. UK DETECTOR NET is your portal to the fascinating world of metal detecting.

Steve Anderson

Celtic Treasures On Display

24 September 2015 – 31 January 2016
British Museum



The British Museum is presenting the first major British exhibition in 40 years on the story of the Celts entitled 'Celts: Art and Identity'.

It will examine the full history of Celtic art and identity, and is organised in partnership with National Museums Scotland.

The story unfolds over 2,500 years, from the first recorded mention of 'Celts' to an exploration of contemporary Celtic influences. Discover how this identity has been revived and reinvented over the centuries, across Britain, Europe and beyond.

Many objects provide clues to and raise questions about Celtic identity. From the depths

of the River Thames come magnificent Iron Age treasures such as the Waterloo helmet and Battersea shield. Roman jewellery, early medieval manuscripts and crosses and a Liberty tea set all help to tell a constantly evolving British and Irish story. Major loans, such as the spectacular Gundestrup cauldron, reveal the cultural connections across Europe.

The word Celtic was first used by ancient Greeks to signify those living across a broad swathe of Europe north of the Alps whom they considered barbarians. Today it is associated with the culture and traditions of Scotland, Ireland, Wales, Cornwall and Brittany.

Dangerous Plant Menace

Detectorists venturing out into the countryside during this summer and at the tail end of it should be aware of a non-native invasive plant known as the giant hogweed. These plants can grow very tall and fast during hot and wet summer weather, and can burn and blister human flesh on contact.

They normally grow besides rivers and streams, but can also be found in some fields and on parkland as well.

I am a volunteer with a local Charitable Conservation Group called Dighty Connect and have recently spent some time surveying parts of the Dighty Burn in Dundee where I live, and noting all the hot spots where we have seen giant hogweed growing. These were plotted on maps and the grid references reported to the Dundee City Council who are attempting to address the problem.

This is not only a Scottish problem but applies to other parts of the UK as well.

If you come into contact with such a plant wash the affected area as soon as possible with cold soapy water. If burns and blistering follow get yourself to your GP or A&E as soon as possible. Severe burns can take months to heal and result in severe physical agony if not dealt with properly.

There are different varieties of hogweed including our own native variety. The one to look



out for is the non-native invasive special (giant hogweed). This usually has purple stripes or spots on the main stem, accompanied by fine bristles. The plants have green leaves with a dull sheen and sharp serrated-looking edges.

Giant hogweed plants can grow taller than a man and can reach up to 9 feet in height. The sap that oozes from the main stalk burns like acid and can be much worse than anything encountered from stinging nettles or similar.

David Drummond

New Club In Norfolk

The Norfolk Heritage Recovery Group is a new detecting club in Norfolk that is launching in September. They aim to create a friendly welcoming club that will hold regular club digs to raise money for the Nook Appeal – a new children's hospice to be built south of Norwich.

The first Chairman and co-founder Liam Nolan said "Malcolm Allsop and myself had wanted to combine our detecting passion with supporting this very worthy cause. Finding a local club that ticked all the boxes proved difficult for many reasons and it soon became

more sensible to create a new club that would embrace our fundraising aims. The modern venue with its superb facilities, also in Poringland, is an ideal meeting place and apart from the club digs, we also aim to engage with the local community on many levels. The owner of a large Norfolk estate is very keen to link up with us to create a Schools Heritage project on the estate. Visiting schools parties will have 'hands on' appreciation of typical detecting finds and will be given short lectures on how these finds were used in the past. What better example of how detecting finds can



Rare Coptic bowl found recently by Liam Nolan.

prove so valuable! We are now inviting new members to join our ranks and share in our vision for recovering the past."

Liam is the recent finder of a rare 6th century Coptic bowl which it's hoped will eventually go on display at Norwich's Castle Museum. More information on the club's new website: www.norfolkheritagerecovery.org



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A Medieval Manorial Site

Back in February of this year I was fortunate enough to be granted permission to detect on some fields near a small village in south Cambridgeshire. The area that I was given access to consisted of two very large flat fields (covering a total area of about 40 acres), and three smaller fields that bordered some woodland.

Although I was initially told that I could venture onto the two large fields the farmer reversed his decision when he remembered that he'd only recently seeded them. I was therefore only allowed to detect on the smaller fields further away.

When I arrived at the fields I was slightly disheartened to see that they had only recently been ploughed – though not heavily. I was also informed by the landowner that the woodland area adjacent to the fields was once the site of a medieval manor house. The only specific details of the house that he could provide were that it might have had its origins in Norman times but was completely destroyed in the 17th century. I had a quick look in the woodland to try and ascertain where the house might have been situated, but could only see some ditches that were possibly the remains of a moat.

As I started out detecting on the field I was surprised to see large tufts of grass jutting out of the furrows up and down it. This indicated that the field had previously been pasture prior to ploughing – a fact that the farmer later confirmed. To me this was good news. A newly ploughed pasture field often yields previously undisturbed finds. Also, being close to a medieval site who knows what may turn up?

The ground was very dry, and the temperature was also close to freezing, which made the going a bit tough. The lumpy surface was awkward to walk on and digging became difficult, as the sub-soil was still as hard as nails!

Being close to woodland, shotgun caps were inevitably going to be abundant, and they were. Frustrating though this was, I persevered knowing that something good would turn up.

Although the field had only been ploughed to a depth of about 6 inches the surface layers seemed to abound with signals. I concluded that the field

was probably turned to crops during the war years, as many were, and this had brought up many objects from lower down. One signal I picked up soon had me tense with excitement.

The number 39 on my screen was an indication that I could have found silver. Breaking open the freeze-dried lumps of earth I eventually saw a blackened disc. I was delighted when I realised that it was a George III shilling dated 1820 (Figs.1a & b).

The area where the field bordered the wood seemed to contain masses of remnants of red brickwork. I came to the conclusion that this could be the scattered remains of the old manor house. In my mind's eye I tried to picture an Elizabethan-style red brick and timber framed building.

Along with the shotgun caps I also found copious amounts of lead scattered around the field, mostly in the form of shapeless lumps or folded strips. This is



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Figs.1a & b. George III shilling dated 1820.



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Fig.4. Horse brass or harness decoration.



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Fig.2. Medieval locking buckle.



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Fig.3. Button depicting a Cupid grasping the letter 'P'.



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Fig.5. Medieval bronze thimble.

normally a good indication of occupation or activity on a site.

Pretty soon I had a good signal, which seemed to rate higher on the scale than the lead targets. Breaking open a large lump of earth I came across the edge of a buckle. When it was fully extracted the target I was pleased to find that it was a medieval locking buckle (Fig.2). Sadly, the locking bar had been broken.

The shotgun caps always seemed to give their own unique type of double-blip



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Fig.6. 19th century brass barrel key.



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Fig.7. Pilgrim's ampulla.



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Fig.8. Decorative bronze mount.



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Figs.10 a & b. Charles I Scottish 20 pence.



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Fig.9. Medieval loom weight and post-medieval trade weight.



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Fig.11. Medieval strap ends.

Fig.12. 17th century tombac button.



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signal, and a lower number on the screen, which made it easy to predict when I'd located one. I always dig them though, as they aren't something you want to keep picking up every time you come to the site. One such signal made me give the usual groan of frustration.

I dug the signal anyway, but was surprised to see a similar-shaped object with a design on the face. A gentle cleaning revealed that it was the top of a Victorian or Edwardian button, depicting a Cupid grasping the letter 'P' in relief (Fig.3). This was a reminder that even if the signal sounds 'iffy' it's always worth checking.

I hadn't gone far from the find spot when I had a much larger signal. I spotted the object jutting out of the soil almost as soon as I heard the signal. It turned out to be a large horse brass or harness decoration, in the form of a press-formed flower (Fig.4), probably 19th or early 20th century.

Although I had started searching in a random style I soon reverted to my preferred methodical pattern. Walking across the field and back in straight lines was an assured way of covering a productive area more thoroughly. I was also using my preferred 'All-Metal' mode, using 'Disc' only over areas of heavy contamination.

Having had one medieval find so far, I was soon rewarded with another. A non-ferrous signal, which came from the hard-packed sub-soil, turned out to be a nice medieval bronze thimble (Fig.5). This was shortly followed by a much larger signal, which turned out to be a 19th century brass barrel key (Fig.6).

After some 20 minutes of regular shotgun cap and scrap lead finds, I then had a large signal. Glancing at the screen on my Minelab Quattro I could see that it read '35'. A good non-ferrous signal, I thought.

The target was isolated to a large lump of earth near the surface, so I began carefully breaking it apart. Soon I was faced with what appeared to be another large lump of lead. I gently extracted it from the lump of soil and brushed off some of the dirt. My eyes soon spotted a loop on one edge, which told me that I was not dealing with another piece of junk.

It's been some years since I'd recovered one, but I was delighted to discover that I'd just found my second medieval pilgrim's ampulla (Fig.7). When I later cleaned it up I found a design indicating that it probably originated from the Walsingham shrine, in Norfolk (although I'm not certain).

The field was long but quite narrow, so it didn't take long to cross from one side to the other. After one hour I'd covered at least a quarter of it, and the area had been quite flat. After that the field began gently sloping downwards towards a bridle-path at the bottom. The bridle-path passed through a row of trees and joined a much bigger track-way, which I later found to be part of the course of a Roman road running towards Cambridge. But as of yet I hadn't found any identifiable Roman artefacts. Quite often medieval sites were built on pre-existing Roman ones, so the chance might yet present itself.

The find rate also diminished as I detected down the slope, which indicated that all activity occurred at the top, flatter, part of the field. I therefore concentrated my search on that area.

One signal I had was very questionable, and I wasn't sure if it could be another shotgun cap. My previous button find reminded me that I should check all signals! Breaking apart a small lump of earth I spotted a small rounded disc protruding from the broken edge. Breaking the soil apart some more, this disc turned out to be the end of an elongated, and quite decorative, bronze mount (Fig.8). With no pins or hooks on the back I'm unsure as to its age or purpose.

By this time the light was fading and the temperature was dropping rapidly. I reluctantly decided to pack up and made plans to return the following weekend. I then went home and cleaned up the day's finds.

When I did return the following weekend I had a pleasant surprise. The field had been harrowed and was virtually flat. The biggest advantage of this was that it made it much easier to walk on.

Although I'd already covered the top flatter area extensively the previous weekend, I decided to start from scratch all over again, beginning my search from one corner of the field. I crossed the field back and forth, slowly following in the footsteps of my previous expedition. I was amazed at how many signals my Minelab was picking up. It was almost as if the field had been given a new lease of life after the harrowing.

Again, lead objects seemed to be the constant. Always checking them before I consign them to scrap bag, I found two lead weights in fairly close proximity to one another. One, though, was a medieval loom weight, while the other a post-medieval trade weight which

had some faint circular markings on the upper surface (Fig.9).

My hopes that I would find a hammered coin were soon realised. I had a rather 'iffy' signal on the far side of the field, close to the hedgerow, which made me suspect a deeply buried shotgun cap. About 4 inches down I pulled out a small black disc, which immediately brought a smile to my face. Although hard to define the monarch I could clearly see a Scottish thistle on the reverse. When I later cleaned the coin I found that it was in fact a Charles I Scottish 20 pence (Figs.10a & b). I was really pleased with this find, as I rarely find Scottish hammered coins.

I had two other finds quite close together shortly afterwards. Both were medieval strap ends (Fig.11). One had minute traces of gilding, and the other has what seems to be a 'hook' at the base and a suspension loop on the reverse. The purpose of these is unclear.

My next signal dropped out of a piece of dirt right onto my boot. At first sight I thought was a coin, but when I picked it up it soon became clear that it was just a button, but a very nice 17th century tombac button (Fig.12).

Another lead artefact then came up, which I almost mistook for a large token. It was actually a cloth or bag seal that depicted an upturned sword, four stars and a flower (Fig.13). I was becoming increasingly pleased with my lead finds so far.

Detecting close to the wood, and amongst a huge scattering of smashed brickwork, I had a very strong, high-value, signal. I only had to brush the soil with my boot and I could see the coin on the surface. Another hammered!

This one turned out to be a Charles I half groat from the Tower mint (Figs.14a & b). My book dates this to 1639-40. I'm guessing that the manor house may have been destroyed shortly after the English Civil War, which could mean that this find could possibly be one of the last coins that may have had some connection to the house.

Over the course of the afternoon I found two nice crotal bells (Fig.15). Fortunately both were intact, probably due to the fact that the field has rarely been ploughed.

I also found a nice little button with a clear glass boss (Fig.16). I'm assuming it dates from the late 18th or early 19th century.

Around 4pm that afternoon the weather began to deteriorate and rain threatened, so I packed up and went



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Fig.13. Cloth or bag seal.



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Figs.14a & b. Charles I half groat from the Tower mint.

Fig.15.
Two
nice
crotal
bells.

CM

Fig.16.
Button
with a
clear glass
boss.

CM



CM

Figs.17a & b. George III halfpenny.



CM

Fig.18. Massive .50 calibre Martini-Henry round and other bullets.



CM

Fig.19. Tunic button of the Queen's Royal West Surrey Regiment.



CM

Figs.20a & b. George IV farthing.



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Figs.21a & b. Edward I Irish issue penny.

Fig.22. Large teardrop-shaped lead weight.

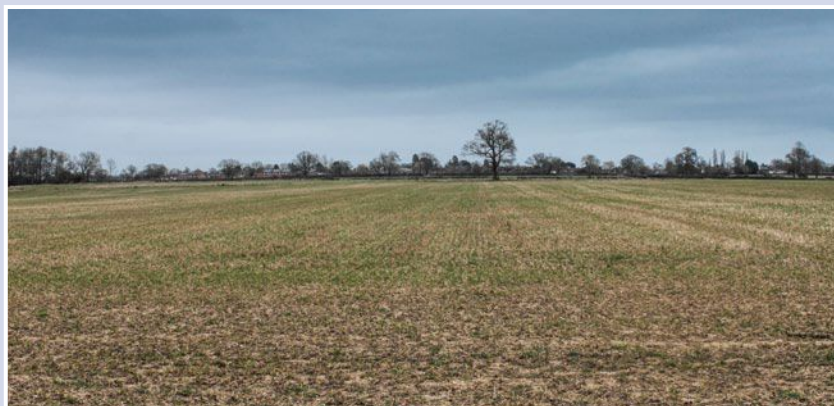


Fig.23. The fields I have been granted permission to search after the harvest.

home. I returned the following afternoon, despite warnings of further rain, or sleet.

The rain had moistened the soil a great deal. Up until then it had been very dry and hard. The difference was very noticeable with regards to the number of signals I was picking up. Detectors usually work better when there's a little moisture in the ground.

Having covered much of the area close to the wood, with signals few and far between down the slope, I cut through a gap in the hedgerow into the neighbouring field. This one bordered the top edge of the wood, so I hoped it would still offer the chance of good finds.

Shotgun caps and lead still prevailed, though other non-ferrous targets seemed thin on the ground. This field had yet to be harrowed and was still as rough as the first one when I started searching

the weekend before. I wasn't going to be able to come here over the next few weeks, due to other commitments, so I persevered.

It was a good half an hour before I got my first decent signal. This turned out to be a rather nice George III halfpenny, which had survived well in the soil (Figs. 17a & b).

Strangely, I seemed to make better finds the further I got away from the wood bordering this field. Over the next hour or so I found three very old lead bullets, one of them a massive .50 calibre Martini-Henry round (Fig.18). I concluded that, being quite a long narrow field, it may have been used by various local Militia units for training during the 19th century. If that were the case then there was the possibility of finding various military artefacts.

Soon enough, I had a military find, although this one dated from the First World War. I had found a nicely preserved tunic button of the Queen's Royal West Surrey Regiment (Fig.19). It seemed strange finding a military button from a regiment that was so far from its home.

As promised by the weather forecast, the weather showed signs of deteriorating again. I decided to hang on for another half an hour in the hope of weeding-out another decent find.

This came in the form of a beautifully preserved George IV farthing (Figs.20a & b). It was dated 1826, and quite possibly lost by a militiaman.

I was quite hoping to find a cap badge from that period, as many of them were quite ornate. Sadly none surfaced that day. I did, however, find another small hammered coin close to the hedgerow bordering the first field. Surprisingly, this turned out to be an Irish issue penny from the reign of Edward I (Figs.21a & b).

I walked back through the gap in the hedgerow and onto the first field, detecting my way back to my bag. Halfway across the field I picked up a loud signal.

The object was close to the surface and soon I was holding another large piece of lead. Curiously, it was shaped rather like the pilgrim's ampulla that I'd found the week before, though it seemed heavier. Sadly, it turned out to be just a large teardrop-shaped lead weight of some kind (Fig.22).

I packed up and began the journey home. I wasn't likely to get the chance to return to any of these sites this season so I can only wait until later in the year. Fig.23 shows the fields I have been granted permission to search after the harvest. I can't wait!

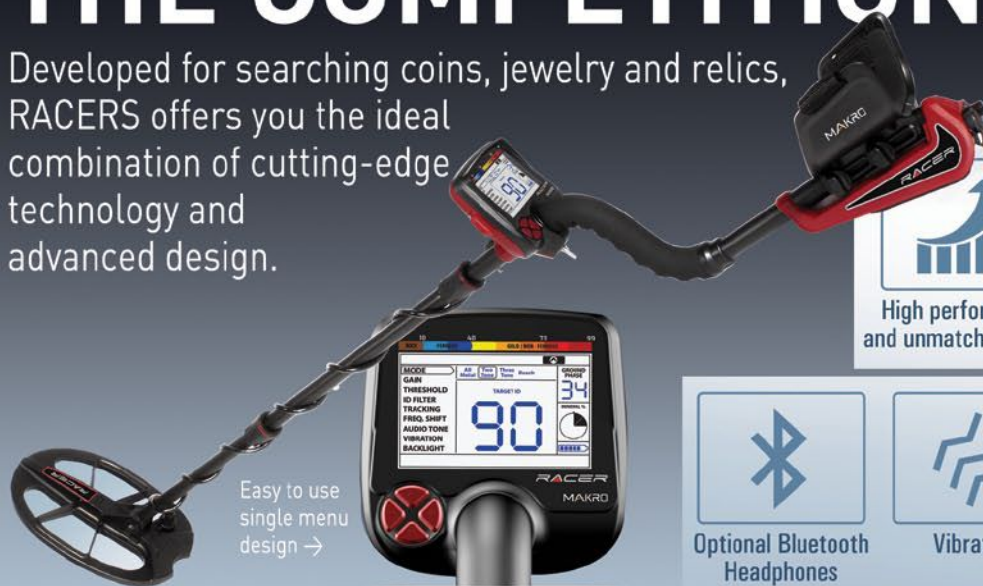
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My Favourite is Roman

This is another in our series of articles where members within clubs are invited to tell their own personal detecting story and something about the club to which they belong. If you would like to contribute your own feature along these lines then please get in touch.
– Ed

Having caught the metal detecting bug around eight years ago I have been lucky enough to have made some fairly decent finds. The majority of these have been made through club sites in and around the borders of Herts, Cambridgeshire, and Essex. As every detectorist knows, having access to productive land is the key to improving your find rates; and, as an added bonus, finding coins and artefacts throughout a broad time range makes it even better.

My favourite period in history is Roman, and luckily our sites regularly throw up finds from this period. The following includes examples of some of my best Roman finds from different sites.

These finds were found over a period of four or five years, mostly with my Teknetics T2. The *denarii* were all found on different sites and as you can see are in pretty good condition, especially the Trajan coin; none of these are particularly rare but I absolutely love Roman silver.

The umbonate brooch I found on a very wet day; in fact, it was so muddy I wasn't sure exactly what I had found until I got home. Imagine my excitement when the colours started to show while cleaning; in fact, the photo doesn't do the brooch full justice as the blue and red colours are quite vibrant. I don't know if there might have been a central stone in the middle as there's a indentation available for one and would really set it off; however, this may have just been part of the original design. I'm guessing this would have been fairly high status in its day from the amount of work that would have gone into its making. The pins are still complete on both the brooches and could still be worn today, 1,800 years later!

Next up are a selection of my Celtic coins. The Celts also fascinate me with such great designs on their coins and artefacts. Each time I look at these finds they scream "old and ancient!", which really sets off the imagination in regards to what drew these people to the area

and how did they live their lives within the landscape?

Unlike the Roman period there is obviously less known about these people, which adds to my interest in this period.

The first coin is a quarter stater

(Selsey dahlia damaged die type), which I recovered on a club site with a one-time permission; I therefore felt very lucky to have found it. The second coin is a Cunobelin quarter stater, and the last a silver unit of Tasciovanus. I've also found a handful of bronze units, too, which can



Fig.1. Silver *denarii* of Trajan, Septimus Severus, and Geta.



Fig.2. 2nd century umbonate brooch.



Fig.3. Dolphin brooch.



Fig.4. Selsey dahlia damaged die type quarter stater.



Fig.5. Cunobelin quarter stater.



Fig.7. Saxon portrait penny, Cuthred of Kent.

Fig.6. Tasciovanus silver unit.





Fig.8. Saxon strap end.



Fig.9. Horse harness junction.

Fig.10. Medieval horse harness pendant.



Fig.11. 16th-17th century miniature toy musket (petronel).

Pete Cross.



Fig.12. Groat of Elizabeth I, Henry VIII penny and Edward I penny.



be dated back to the years BC. Unfortunately, a full stater has eluded me – so that's a coin which is certainly on my wish list; hopefully one day I might get lucky.

Saxon coins and artefacts don't come up very often so again I have been lucky

to have found a few items from this period.

The Saxon penny of Cuthred is by far my best coin, and was found with my T2. Unlike many coins of this period, which can be extremely fragile, this one was in good shape that allowed me to deal with

an edge that had been slightly bent over. It's a rare coin and apart from a nick out of the edge its in fabulous condition, struck well and barely circulated.

The strap end was found in the compacted soil of a tractor wheel track, which made it a challenge to extract without damaging it. Possibly this may have helped to preserve it, plus the fact that it was a naturally flat object was on my side.

Medieval and post medieval finds seem to come up a bit more frequently from my sites than perhaps the more ancient ones mentioned. Hammered coins are a favourite of nearly all detectorists, myself included, so whenever I find one it always puts a smile on my face (and sometimes a frown when trying to identifying them accurately)! The three shown here a long cross penny of Edward I, a Henry VIII penny, and a groat of Elizabeth I were found on a mixture of club sites and my own. None of the coins are particularly different from normal finds; however, a couple are quite rare in the fact the details on the wording are slightly unusual. The Henry VIII penny has no recorded parallel bearing the combination plain cross and star mark; and the Edward penny coin has a pellet before TAS in the reverse legend, which I'm told is a rare variety.

The medieval horse harness pendant I found opposite a church, which fits in well with the design of the pendant having a cross in the middle. It's in very good condition apart from being slightly bent by the plough and has retained some of its gilding; it must have looked quite impressive in its day when it was first made.

My last item is a miniature toy musket (petronel) I found when I first started detecting. Its obvious what it is; however, it wasn't until I looked into these toys in more depth that I discovered that back in the 1600s or 1700s these were used as actual working toys for children. Can you imagine the accidents young children were probably involved in from using these? Saying that I would have loved to have played with one of these when I was a young kid and would have probably set up a line of toy soldiers to fire at.

Hopefully, with many years of metal detecting ahead of me I will add some more interesting finds to my collection and tick off some of those items that are sitting on my 'wish list'. TH



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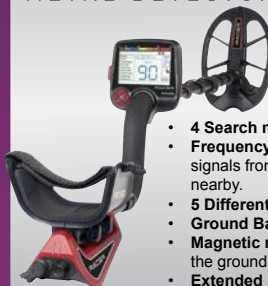


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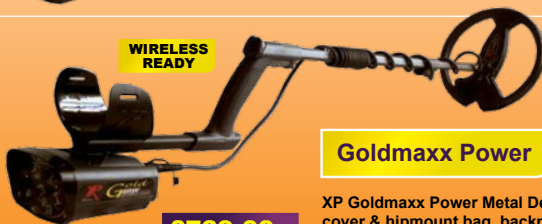


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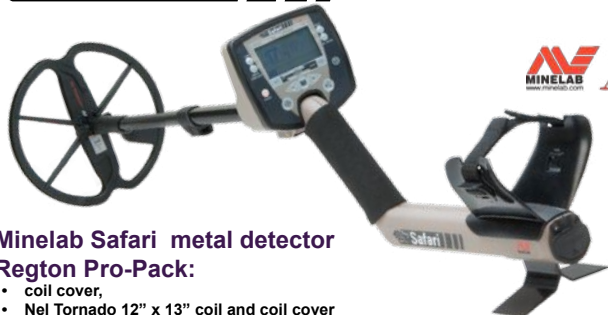
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Non-Military Encampment Grounds

Ted Fletcher

Military encampments of the 18th and 19th centuries have attracted researchers and detectorists for several decades. Easy finds on most sites dried up years ago and the dedicated few who still work the well-trodden ground have probably built up enough knowledge to pinpoint the hot-spots; and sufficient expertise to work the difficult patches and coax the very best performances from their top-flight detectors for hours on end.

Anyone of limited experience who gives a well documented site a trial will probably go home empty handed, unless Lady Luck feels inclined to smile upon a beginner and reward him/her with an intact badge or a scarce button. It happens, I know; but beginner status wears off as quickly as the scratch-free finish on a new coil cover.

If you fall into the beginner or limited experience categories, yet nevertheless itch for a crack at an encampment site, why not act on my tip of the month? Forget military; and forget following other people's well-trodden routes to the same-old same-old. Believe me, there are enough non-military encampments to keep you busy with fascinating research, and delighted with the finds you'll

discover; all of them on sites where few, if any, have trodden before you.

How, you surely demand, can such interesting locations have failed to attract entire clubs of eager hunters during times when so many detectorists grumbled over paucity of fresh sites? In part because the sites I want you to find have

left no visible clues to their existence: no derelict barracks; no traces of firing ranges; not even the shadowy suggestions of tent lines. Nevertheless, at more than a few the swish of sabres drawn in anger ... of charging cavalry ... of musket fire ... were heard by the civilians who encamped there. I could show you one

Fig.1. Open air revivalist camp meetings were held by the Primitive Methodists at Ayle Common, overlooking the South Tyne Valley in Cumbria. The rocky outcrop looks ideal for a makeshift pulpit. (Photo copyright Roger Morris and licensed for reuse under a Creative Commons Licence).



Fig.3. This is Hood Hill, scene of a number of Chartist camps in the 1840s. It lies seven miles distant from both Sheffield and Barnsley. Up to 10,000 people attended one of its most popular meetings. (Photo copyright Alan Murrey-Rust and licensed for reuse under a Creative Commons Licence).



Fig.2. Newspaper reports in September 1838 referred to at least 2,000 persons travelling on foot, in donkey carts and on wagons along the Pilgrim's Way towards Boughton Common where a popular Primitive Methodist camp meeting had taken place in previous years. Look along this stretch for locations where animals could be watered.

Non-Military Encampment Grounds

location; a sleepy village today; where unarmed men were fired on by soldiers, and two, hit by musket balls, staggered into the village pub and fell dead at the bar. But I digress.

Have you ever heard of Chartists, Reformists or Primitive Methodists? I can vaguely recall them from the mind-numbing O-Level syllabus of my early teens when sparks of interest were dampened by a History master who might have halted the Light Brigade with his doleful monologues. Had he shown me no more than an artefact from the period my spark of interest might have fired into eager enthusiasm. A badge or button might have done it; better still a copy of one of the posters Chartist activists pasted on the town walls in the dead of night. One example announced:-

"Yorkshire men responded; not in countless numbers; but on that occasion in March 1843 between five thousand

and six thousand made their way to Peep Green."

Five years earlier, in May 1839, two hundred and fifty thousand had gathered on the same spot at a moment when northern factory workers feared that a newly established Manchester police force was about to support employers against workers. Several other Peep Green camp meetings throughout the 1840s counted attendances by the thousand, so it might benefit us as modern detectorists to wonder why the location attracted so many.

In towns across Britain in those days assemblies of more than a dozen gathered within borough boundaries were treated as riots, giving the magistrates legal powers to call out the militia, or regular troops if stationed nearby, and to order arrests if crowds failed to disperse when the Riot Act was read out. The soldiery could then fire on anyone

throwing stones or arming themselves with sticks. Little wonder that camp meeting organisers preferred countryside venues; but even beyond urban regulation they faced landowners who had already used Enclosure Acts to turn many commons into private land. A contemporary description of Peep Green in the Bradford Observer said:-

"The place is a portion of unenclosed common in the central part of the West Riding, situated on a high eminence commanding prospects of Yorkshire and Lancashire, and is a central point between Leeds, Bradford, Halifax and Huddersfield."

That last phrase was important. Factory hands worked six days a week in those days so meetings usually occurred on Sundays. A venue equidistant from a number of large towns would have met with approval from potential supporters, many of them having to rise at 4am or 5am and to use Shank's Pony as their sole means of transport to Peep Green. I have space for only three or four further examples here, but can assure you that hundreds of Chartists camp meetings were reported in contemporary newspapers. Your main lending library is sure to have back issues of your local papers covering the 19th century and stored on microfilm or digitally. If they are indexed, spend a morning browsing and look for reports on the lines of the following.

Northern Star and Leeds General Advertiser, September 1839:-

"Bills having been posted in Sheffield and Barnsley announcing a Chartist camp



Fig.4. These harvested wheat fields are located at Moor Top near Robert Town, Kirklees. They are thought to lie close to the locations of some of the large Chartist camp meetings held at Peep Green in the 1830s-1840s. (Photo copyright Tim Marchant and licensed for reuse under a Creative Commons Licence).



Fig.6. A find like this medal issued to miners who had been on strike in 1881 would rank as a top find on any Chartist camp meeting site. The events on the day of the battle involved a reading of the Riot Act and a platoon of troops guarding men who wished to return to work.



Figs.5a & b. This Methodist Sunday School Attendance medal, issued in Oldham in 1885, is typical of artefacts that might turn up on a Methodist camp meeting site.

Fig.7. Temperance featured high on the list of Methodists' interests. This Band of Hope medal would have been proudly worn by somebody attending a camp meeting.



meeting at Hood Hill, a small settlement seven miles distant from both of those towns, great numbers of people made their way on Sunday morning to the appointed place. Opinions vary on precisely how many attended, with figures of between 5000 and 10000 suggested. The precise location was described as a deep crescent-shaped hollow in the hillside. Local landowner Lord Milton [sympathetic to non-violent protest] afterwards complimented the organisers on their orderly meeting."

The Manchester Times, August 1847:-

"Between 6,000 and 10,000 people from throughout Lancashire attended the Chartists Camp Meeting held last Sunday on the common (better known as the Race Ground) at Newton-in-Mackerfield (better known as Newton-le-Willows). About 1,000 made the journey by the only third-class train from Manchester to run on Sundays; the rest came mainly on foot or in one-horse carriages. Some men were said to have walked thirty

miles to reach the common, bringing their food in baskets or small plates tied in handkerchiefs."

Morning Post, March 1848:-

"A formidable gathering of Chartists was held last Sunday on Oldham Edge, following a two-week campaign of placards all over Lancashire. A drenching rain, anything but inviting, did not deter 6000-8000 people attending. One of the main topics was a call for universal suffrage.

The authorities in Oldham, taking into consideration the present excited state of the public mind, called out 400 special constables. They continued on duty until the crowds dispersed in the late afternoon with a band playing throughout Oldham as they departed."

Leicestershire Mercury, April 1848, reported that more than 1,000 Chartists reached Mountsorrel in the early morning and proceeded up Watling Street to Broad Hill, where they gathered around

the windmill. A troop of Yeomanry stood watch on proceedings as the crowd swelled to 3,000 and its leaders took a decision, after midday, to proceed to Loughborough where an evening meeting of 6,000-10,000 visitors passed off without violent incident.

The camp meeting concept found fertile support among another group of disaffected Britons at that period of history – religious dissidents. They exhibited three traits in common with Chartists: a distrust and dislike of the Establishment, in their case the Established Church of England with its hierarchy of priests; a fervent desire to get away from authoritative control by quitting urban areas and practicing their own forms of religion in secluded rural localities; and – most important from our viewpoint – an inclination to attract press attention. Methodists (I'll include the various sects and offshoots in that term) took to using the local press to advertise their forthcoming camp meetings in hope of attracting potential converts.



Figs.8-12. Typical pocket losses at meetings attended by 18th-19th century members of the labouring classes. They include hand-made love tokens, a pipe tamper and identity discs.



Figs.13-15. Coins from camp meeting venues.



Scan the advertising sections of your local paper and you will often come upon announcements giving the date and the venue of a forthcoming camp meeting. If it drew big crowds; or if some occurrence during the meeting attracted an editor's eye, they might also have found their camp meetings in the paper's news sections. Below I've selected a few examples of what to look out for. Keep in mind that these religious meetings rarely attracted crowds numbered in thousands; but they

did hold meetings on the same patch of ground over scores of years, always adding to the losses you can now hope to find.

Essex Standard, July 1858:-

In a letter to the editor of the *Essex Standard* in July 1858 a reader commented: "Sir, On Sunday last the Primitive Methodists held their annual camp meeting on Fordham Heath. A similar meeting held on that same spot a year ago ended with a disgraceful riot mainly among persons who were not at the camp meeting at all. As that event was brought somewhat prominently to notice of your readers, may I state that on this occasion the greatest decorum and good order prevailed."

Whitby Gazette, July 1864:-

"Camp Meeting Notice: The public are informed that the Annual Camp Meeting of the Whitby Primitive Methodists will be held on Sunday July 17th, weather permitting. After assembling at 9.30 a.m., a short sermon will be given on the New Quay at Whitby. Children and families will then proceed to Mr Turner's Field for refreshments."

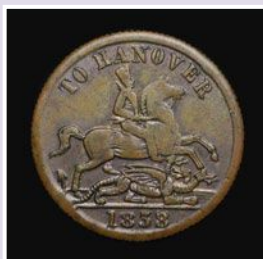
Hastings and St Leonards Observer, September 1898:-

"Camp Meeting at Westfield: Last Sunday the Bohemia Temperance Band mustered at Harrow Arch for the journey to Westfield to support the Westfield Primitive Methodists and their camp meeting. Following a service in the Primitive Chapel, a large crowd gathered in a neighbouring field where the band played and tea was served."

What might you expect as finds on a camp meeting site? Bear in mind that the majority who attended were wretchedly poor, so listen for signals from coppers and small silver money rather than from sovereigns and halfcrowns. Interesting artefacts carried by working-class people of the time include pipe tampers, home-made identity tags, and love tokens. Badges and tokens given out at the camp were often lost before the recipient left the ground.

Lastly, be aware that artefacts which mention Chartist and other political groups attract plenty of interest at auction. When seeking permission (always required) from a landowner, why not take along this issue and show him/her the illustrations? They may prompt a request for "half the finds"; but they will also help in winning search permissions. TH

Figs.16-19. Low denomination copper and silver coins circulated at all types of camp meeting venues.



Figs.20-24. Factory workers had little choice but to use tokens they found in their pay packets when owners insisted no official coppers had arrived from banks. It is worthy of note that the Slave Trade Abolition medal (Fig.24, on the right) was used as a coin by labourers in Britain and by ex-slaves in Sierra Leone.

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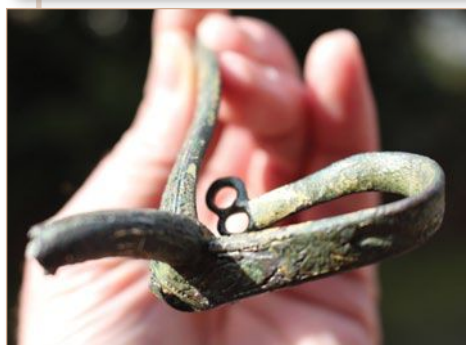
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Fancy Spurs and Miniature Propellers



Figs.1a-c. Three views of lovely heavily gilded and decorated spur.



Figs.3a & b. Unusual strap end or belt stiffener, with side profile showing two rivets still in situ.

Figs.2a & b. Hammered silver penny.



Fig.4. Good example of an acorn terminal strap end and a small square buckle showing crude filing marks.



Recently I had one of those strange days that I am sure others have also experienced. It was a day when I was keen to go out detecting but not so enthusiastic about the site. It was one we had really thrashed a few months before, but was still harrowed and was not yet in crop. Due to lack of other sites we had hit it so hard that non-ferrous finds, even those of Eley manufacture, were very rare indeed.

In the event how quickly attitudes can change! No more than 40 feet away from the car I had a signal. "Blasted Coke can!" I thought rather negatively. When the target came out and it wasn't a drink can at all but a most marvellous spur. It was gilded, highly decorated and once must have been very eye-catching indeed. It probably dates to the 16th century. Naturally I pondered how we could have missed such a massive target previously, but miss it we all had. It is just another classic case of you never know just what any site will reveal – or

when. The spur is shown in Figs.1a-c.

To say I was 'spurred' on to make more finds is probably (no, definitely) an awful pun but I shall say it anyway as that is just what happened. We hadn't been here for a while and recent heavy and very persistent rains had indeed weathered the soil; perhaps it was some 2 inches lower than when we last visited.

Whatever the case, from then on my CTX3030 went into 'finds locating over-drive'. Buckles, strap ends, hammered coins, belt fittings, and those numerous frustratingly unidentifiable fragments of copper-alloy sheeting all came to light. The finds influenced change of heart meant that I ended up staying for six hours in total. The weather was gorgeous, although chilling down by late afternoon, but to be fair it was only March.

One hammered I found had the legend EDWARDUS REX on the portrait side and CIVITAS EBORACI (York) on

the reverse and is shown in Figs.2a & b. It is possibly an Edward III Long Cross issue.

From right next to the coin, and amongst several shards of green glazed pottery and oysters, came a curious object which I believed at the time was possibly a strap end or more likely some sort of belt stiffener. Later research, however, threw up the possibility that it could be part of a Tudor sword belt hanger. It still retains two fixing rivets and extensive amounts of tinning (Figs.3a & b).

Not too far away from this lay a square buckle showing crude filing marks and a good example of an acorn terminal strap end (Fig.4).

This is rather a curious site with scatters of cobbles, striated grey volcanic mill stone, oysters, and thousands of pottery shards illustrating the high level

Fig.5. Just a few of my finds from the 'well thrashed' site.

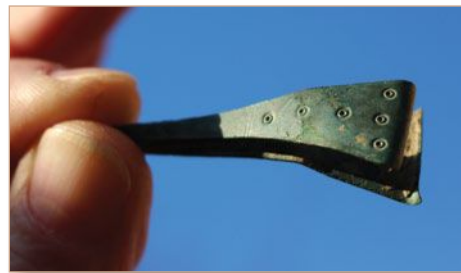


Fig.6. Saxon period tweezers with ring and dot decoration.

Fig.7. Tiny silvered buckle dating 13th-14th century.



Fig.8. Numerous pottery shards from the possible windmill site.

Figs.9a & b. Rather battered little hammered penny.



of occupation. The coin losses recovered have a date range from 1200 to 1500. Yet all the small finds such as buckles and belt fittings, range from 1300 to around 1650 with no coins at all to reflect this later period. Is something curious going on here, or are my finds dating skills going up the creek? What happened after 1650 is also a mystery as there is no Georgian or later period finds here at all. Just a few of my finds are shown in Fig.5. Steve came up with the theory that perhaps the Great Plague of 1665 arrived here and decimated the population. This factor may have been influenced by the main road that runs by the site bringing the pestilence here faster in its earlier stages and perhaps keeping it in the area for longer via the traders continually passing by.

My great detecting mate Dave Stuckey has just consulted some reference books and now dates the spur to the late 1400s; this is amazing, as it is my earliest spur find to date.

Fig.6 shows a lovely pair of Saxon tweezers liberally festooned with ring and dot decorations.

Dave Stuckey and I occasionally take

a break from detecting to do some bird watching and wild life photography. We had to laugh this time because as we were walking along the edge of a grassy banked lake Dave spotted a freshly lost shiny 5p piece on the ground. He then found a £1 coin. When I focussed on the grass I grabbed the rather paltry mixed sum of 13p. However, perhaps luck was in the air for me as a few days later I went to Norfolk and while bird watching again found a £5 note!

Besides finding money even without a detector, it also appears to have been a period of searching curious sites. This was evidenced when Steve and I checked out a field we have been searching on and off for 20 years. It has a scatter of cobbles on the top of a hilly bit, and evidence of pottery. The field is about as sparse as you can get for metallic finds. It's remote and as far as we know we are the only detectorists ever to search it. On this occasion, as I sat and wondered what the site could be, a few moments later I noticed the plough had brought up lots of fragments of mill stone (the inch thick volcanic lava type light grey stuff). It then dawned on me that the site was most likely an old

windmill. Most of the medieval windmill sites I have searched have revealed lots of hammered, belt fittings and buckles; but not this one. I gave it four hours on this occasion and was lucky enough to find the first ever potential metallic dating evidence. Right amongst all the coarse ware fabric pottery shards, cobbles and other bits I found a tiny silvered buckle minus its pin. Based purely on this, it looks like the windmill could date 13th-14th century. However, one thing that might never be explained is the scarcity of finds on a site that should by all experiences have produced a lot more. But that's detecting for you I guess. Sites that look poor yield great finds but sometimes those brimming with potential produce very little.

The star find of the day, the little silvered buckle, is shown in Fig.7 while just some of the numerous pottery shards I picked up appear in Fig.8.

A few days later I was searching a site alongside the boundary of an old Second World War airfield when I found a very battered hammered coin (Figs.9a & b). I think that the term 'hammered' is very apt in this case. My next find was most unexpected despite being recovered close to an airfield. It was the tiny

Fancy Spurs and **Miniature Propellers**



Fig.10. Mystery tip from a tiny propeller blade.

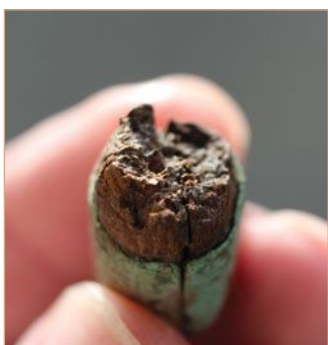


Fig.12. Medieval knife handle terminal with incised cross decoration; it still retains the organic remains of its handle.

Figs.13a & b.
Delightful Anglo-Saxon Frisian style sceat.



Fig.15. Bull head 1817 shilling.



Fig.16. Crumpled little tortoise brooch.



Fig.14. Saxon bronze strap end.



Fig.18. Celtic potin.

Fig.11. Small bronze medieval casket key.



tip of a propeller blade. As an aviation archaeologist I have encountered my fair share of propeller blades, all of which have been of a far larger size than this. What on earth this has come from I have as yet no idea. Its level of corrosion indicates that it is from the Second World War era.

The artefact is complete enough to assess the original size of the propeller. Taking measurements shows that the complete diameter of the entire propeller and its boss was no more than 2 feet. Perhaps it came from some type of motorised drone. There was just one piece of airframe wreckage nearby so maybe whatever it was made from was mostly wood. Or maybe it just didn't hit the ground and break up too badly. However, it impacted hard enough to snap a propeller blade tip cleanly off; all in all it's a bit of a mystery (Fig.10).

While I was pre occupied with things of a wartime nature Steve arrived, and promptly found a medieval casket key (Fig.11) and the handle terminal from a small knife of the same period. The



Fig.17. Poor condition medieval bronze vessica seal.



Fig.19. Iron foot patten, 18th century.



Fig.20. Possible sword belt hanger/composite buckle with the small traces of gilding remaining.



Fig.21. 18th century shoe buckle – broken by me!

knife handle terminal was indeed of more than just passing curiosity. It was one of those thin copper sheet varieties (Fig.12) that look like an oval thimble with incised cross decoration. What was really interesting was that preserved inside (and for a short extended section) was some of the original horn or maybe

even wood from the handle. This is the first time we have ever seen a knife terminal with some of the original organic handle remaining.

From this point onwards followed a really good series of finds. The first of these was a stunning little Frisian sceat (Figs.13a & b). Near to this was located

a superb Anglo-Saxon bronze strap end (Fig.14). Then up came an 1817 bull head sixpence (Fig.15). Spanning the ages, then to appear was a cheap tinned tortoise brooch probably no more than 50 years of age (Fig.16).

A few hours later medieval England appeared in the form of a small casket key (we seem to be finding rather a lot of these). A rather sorry condition bronze vessica seal then made its presence felt (Fig.17), and to finish off the day up came a potin (Fig.18).

For our next outing it was back into Cambridgeshire. Steve found what has to be one of the best condition foot pattens I have seen for ages (Fig.19). I managed to find what appeared to be the large sword belt hanger (another one!) shown in (Fig.20). However later research and Internet consultation showed this was not a sword belt hanger, but a composite buckle and plate. A short while afterwards more searching revealed an 18th century shoe buckle that I'm sorry to say that I broke while recovering it from the ground (Fig.21). TH

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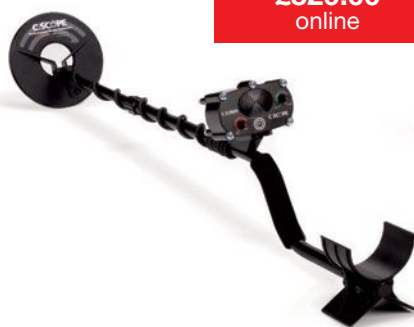
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Views of the **Bronze** Age and Beyond

David Villanueva



Fig.1. Ring of Brodgar, Orkney, Neolithic henge and stone circle. (Photograph © 2006 Paddy Patterson and licensed under CC BY 2.0 via Wikimedia Commons)

Fig.2. Grime's Graves Neolithic flint mines, Norfolk. (Photograph © 2012 by User: Midnightblueowl and licensed under CC BY-SA 3.0 via Wikimedia Commons)



In 'Views of the Landscape' (*Treasure Hunting* June 2015) I wrote that earlier peoples left visible marks in the landscape. We could seek to metal detect any and every one of these marks or features, but it would be useful if we had some idea of who or what produced them. We may then be able to find artefacts of most interest to us. To achieve this I propose we go back beyond the Bronze Age and work forward from there.

Britain and Northern Europe has been uninhabited for some 50,000 years, since the late Palaeolithic period or Old Stone Age. These early people were nomadic hunter-gatherers who neither used metal, settled in one place, and left no major traces of their existence visible on the landscape. Nevertheless, flint, bone and antler artefacts may be found by fieldwalking. The same is true of the following Mesolithic period or Middle Stone Age.

The next period, called the Neolithic or New Stone Age, began around 4500 BC with immigrant farmers from Europe. These people now needed to live at their farms and so built dwellings, sacred henges (Fig.1) causewayed enclosures and flint mines for axe heads (Fig.2). They built long barrows as communal graves for their dead but buried little in the way of grave goods (Fig.3).

While there was no metal in use we should not ignore the Neolithic period



Fig.3. Grans Barrow, Neolithic long barrow, Toyd Down, Hampshire. (Photograph © 2006 Jim Champion and dual-licensed under the GFDL and CC-BY-SA-2.5, 2.0, and 1.0)

since these farmers chose the best places to settle in the landscape of the time. Fresh water was vital for survival and easily workable soils were selected. People, who followed, recognised the value of Neolithic sites and may even have revered their structures to pagan gods. Frequently land around such sites contains metal artefacts running right up to the industrial revolution and later.

I have found metalwork stretching through all periods, from Bronze Age (Figs.4 & 5) to modern, simply by searching land within half a mile of a Neolithic long barrow.

The Bronze Age began around 2,500 BC when the beaker people, (named after their drinking vessels), arrived in south-eastern England. They brought the first knowledge of metal to Britain in the form



Fig.4. Fragment of a late Bronze Age side-looped socketed axe, c.1000 - 800 BC. ©2014 Portable Antiquities Scheme.



Fig.5. Fragment of Bronze Age tool, possibly a gouge.

Views of the **Bronze Age and Beyond**

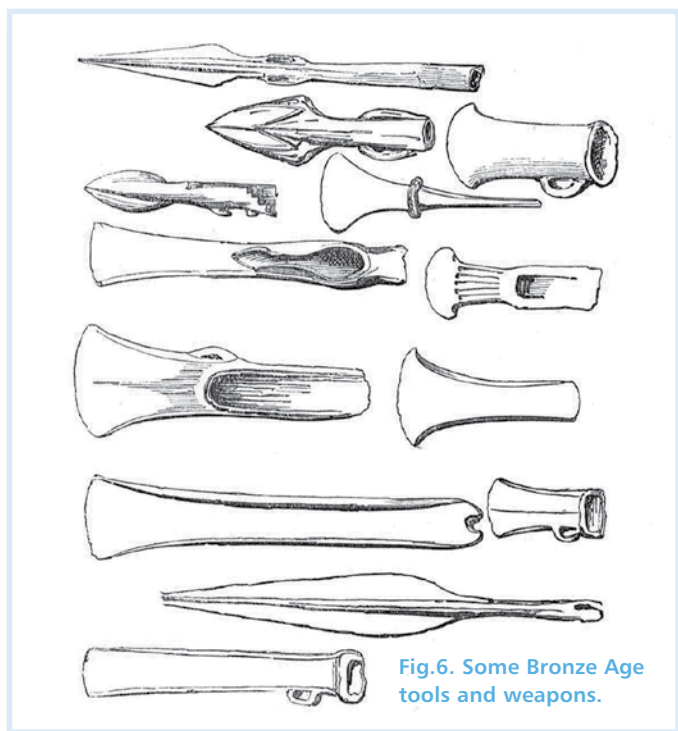


Fig.6. Some Bronze Age tools and weapons.



Fig.8. Avebury Avenue, Wiltshire by Alun Salt-Flickr. (Licensed under CC BY-SA 2.0 via Wikimedia Commons)

Fig.7. Aerial view of a prehistoric field system in Cornwall. (Map data ©2015 Google, Getmapping plc)



Fig.9. Bronze Age round barrows on the ridge of Bronkham Hill, Dorset. (Photograph ©2006 Jim Champion and dual-licensed under the GFDL and CC-BY-SA-2.5, 2.0, and 1.0)



of copper tools and weapons as well as gold ornaments. A thousand years later, bronze replaced copper for tools, weapons, vessels and low status ornaments (Fig.6). Bronze Age farmers fenced their farms (Fig.7) and built stone circles of smaller diameter than their predecessors. They also built avenues of stones (Fig.8) timber or earth which often linked a stone circle with a river. Important dead individuals, possibly with grave goods, were buried in round barrows or tumuli (Fig.9); the size of the barrow increasing with the importance of the deceased. Barrows are usually found in groups, forming a cemetery in effect. Few settlements have been discovered and it is not even clear what shape dwellings were: some say rectangular, others say round (Fig.10). It would seem that Neo-

lithic and Bronze Age accommodation was more temporary and less substantial than those of the peoples who followed.

There was much hoarding or deposition of metalwork. Twenty-five percent of all recorded British hoards are Bronze Age. There are distinct patterns to what was deposited in land or water, although ornaments are found in both types of site. As an alternative to barrow burials, perhaps lower status dead warriors were cremated beside water and their weapons and other possessions thrown into the water (Fig.11). In eastern Britain the water of choice was major eastward flowing rivers made up of the Tyne, the Wear and all those discharging into the Humber (Fig.12) the Wash and the Thames estuary.

Both weapons and tools have been

found in and around Scotland's River Tay. The west of Britain shows a different pattern for weapon deposition as an ARCHI UK search around Bristol shows (Fig.13). No weapons have been found in rivers such as the Severn and Avon, although find spots may still be watery places like pools and springs. Weapons and ornaments originally deposited in water may be found on land as a result of dredging operations or changes in watercourses or water levels.

Bronze tool and weapon making was very important to the survival of the people and immense effort was expended in transporting raw materials to the points of manufacture and distributing finished products. Bronze is made from copper and tin. The principal source of copper or copper ore was the Alps while Cornwall



Fig.10. Illustration of a Bronze Age house by Nancy Smith and Hilda Booth from *The Threshold of History* by H.R. Hall (1913).

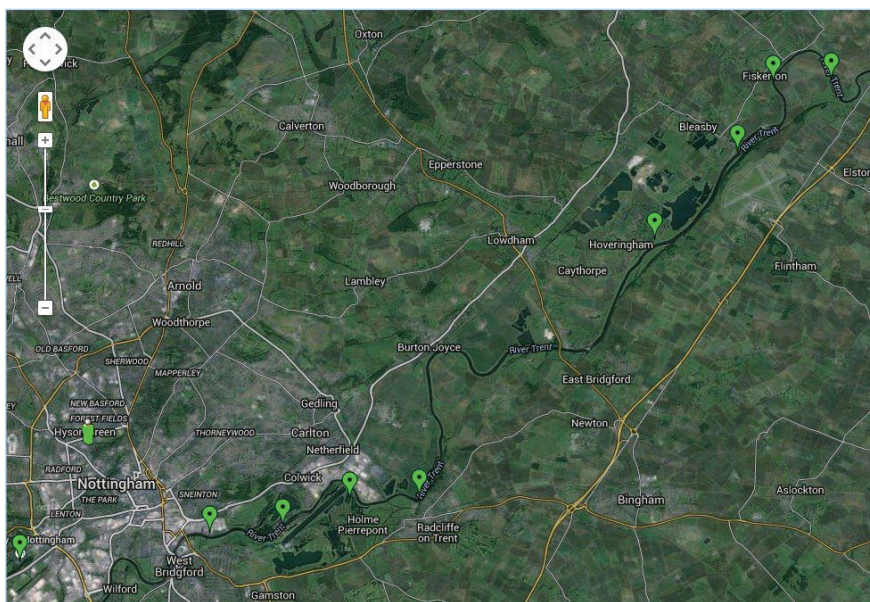
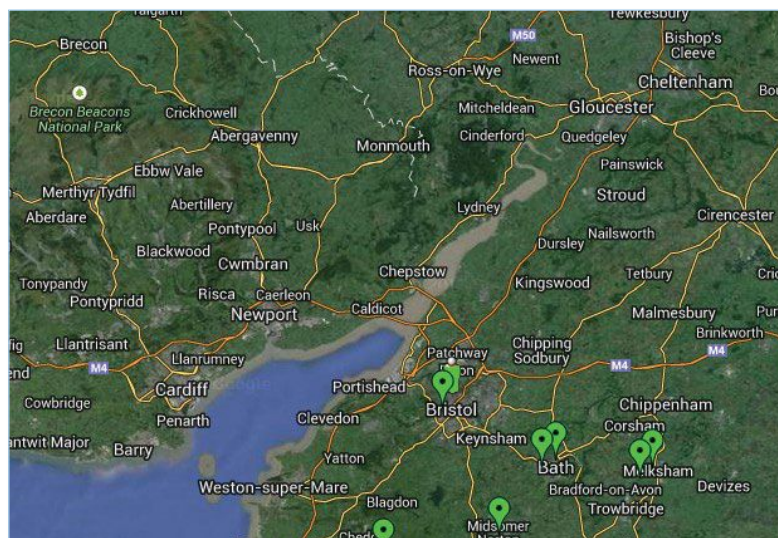


Fig.12. ARCHI UK search on Bronze Age sword finds around Nottingham follow the River Trent. (Map data: ©2015, Google Imagery, TerraMetrics, Digital Documents)



Fig.11. Bronze Age swords found in the British Isles.

Fig.13. ARCHI UK search on Bronze Age sword finds around Bristol avoid major rivers. (Map data: ©2015, Google Imagery, TerraMetrics, Digital Documents)



provided the tin. Later, lead from Wales was added to the mix for easier and more intricate casting at lower temperatures. Gold, incidentally, came mainly from Ireland.

Water transport was the order of the day (Fig.14) and seagoing boats hugged the coast as much as possible. This 'coast hopping' not only enabled Bronze Age sailors to navigate easily but also meant they could get to shore to trade or if they ran into trouble. When it was necessary to cross the open sea they would choose the shortest safest crossing and preferably where, on a clear day, they could see land on the other side. The major



Fig14. A reconstruction of a Bronze Age boat at Samara Archaeology Theme Park. (©2011 Archaeology Travel www.archaeology-travel.com/site/france/picardy/samara-prehistoric-park/25 Reused under a Creative Commons Attribution 2.0 Generic License)



Fig.16. Crop marks of this ploughed-out Bronze Age barrow cemetery in Kent show up best on Google Earth 2007 imagery. (Map data © 2015 Google, Infoterra Ltd & Bluesky)

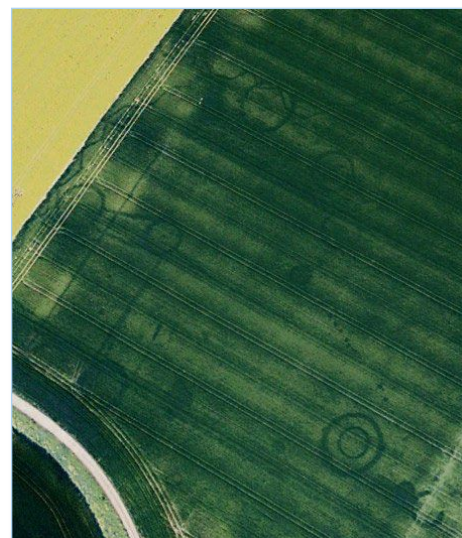


Fig.15. Map of British Isles and part of Europe.

two-way trade route in metal ores, scrap and finished metalwork followed the river Rhine from the Alps to the coast of present day Holland, then along the Continental coast to the Straits of Dover. From there they crossed the channel to Kent where the route followed the coast to Cornwall for tin and on to Wales for lead. Crossings between Wales and County Wicklow in Ireland would also have been made for gold (Fig.15).

The south east of England, particularly Kent, acted as a distribution centre for bulk scrap and high status finished metalwork like swords. As well as the major trade route described, other routes followed the River Thames and the east coast of Britain to access major rivers.

It was more economical to manufacture tools locally and communities, or groups of communities, must have had a smithy or foundry. High temperature (850-1000°C) is needed to melt bronze so founders used charcoal, which burns hotter than wood. At least some metalworkers made their fires in open places among the hills using the winds to fan the flames. It would have been prudent to locate such operations away from settlements to avoid the risk of destroying the village by fire! Scrap and bronze ingots were stored at the smithy for periodic conversion into tools, perhaps by a visiting bronze founder. During the following Iron Age, bronze tools became obsolete and hoards of scrap were perhaps abandoned. Finished tools and ornaments are also found buried singularly and in hoards, although not

necessarily in the same places as founders' hoards.

In contrast to weapons, tools and scrap were usually deposited in land with identifiable features to either facilitate recovery or because of religious belief. Land deposits are often associated with water in the form of streams, springs, dry river valleys and watersheds. Bronze Age artefacts have also been found at settlement sites, field systems, burnt mounds (heat-stressed stones and charcoal) and barrows.

The proximity of water is not surprising as people and farming could not exist without it! There must have been people living close to any man-made structure so to find Bronze Age artefacts, just find evidence of Bronze Age or Neolithic man and search around that for up to half a mile.

An excellent website for this research is ARCHI UK <http://www.archiuk.com/>

You can get free site maps and details of Barrows, Rock Art (cup and/or ring marked standing stones), and Stone Circles. The free keywords are: Art, Barrow and Stone Circle. You can carry out more specific searches on ARCHI UK as I did with Bronze Age swords but you will need to invest in a subscription to obtain find spots and distribution maps. You can only search up to a 10km radius of the place you enter, so I would start close to home and work along any trade routes from there.

Although aerial mapping is available on ARCHI UK, once you find an interesting area it would be best to switch over to

Google Earth (<https://earth.google.com/>). Google Earth, as well as current aerial imagery, now has historical imagery going back to the 1940s in some counties. You can often find crop, soil or shadow marks showing in some years but not others, depending on factors like the state of cultivation, time of day, or weather (Fig.16). As well as checking areas where features and artefacts have been found it is also a good idea to check intervening areas where nothing has been found. You may make the first find there!

Many barrows and other prehistoric structures will be Scheduled Ancient Monuments with legal consequences if we metal detect within the boundaries of the scheduling. So before you even think about detecting around any prehistoric site, it would be a good idea to visit Magic <http://www.magic.gov.uk>

The website provides authoritative geographical information about the landscape and is extremely useful as a site finder as well as showing you places to either avoid metal detecting on entirely or to search with care. When you visit the site you are presented with a small map of the British Isles and a large 'Get Started' button. Clicking the button takes you to a Terms of Use page. Read the page, click the check box to agree the terms and then click OK. You are then taken to a larger map with a search box and table of contents (Fig.17). Find the area on the map you want to look at by typing a place in the map search box. (You can select Regions, Counties, postcodes or coordinates, instead of place, by clicking on the arrow in the search box to access the drop-down menu.) Alternatively, you can use the navigation controls or the mouse to get to where you want to go. In the Table of Contents click in the designations check box, then land based designations. Keep



Fig.17. Magic search page. © Crown Copyright and database rights 2015. Ordnance Survey 100022861.

statutory and historic statutory checked and uncheck non-statutory. (Clicking on the '+/-' box to the right of each check box opens and closes sub-menus.) The sub-menus for statutory open up a large range of options, all checked. If you leave all the boxes checked, the entire map will be effectively blanked out in most areas. We are only interested in designations that may affect metal detecting, such as Scheduled Ancient Monuments and SSSIs, so uncheck what you don't need (Fig.18).

For information on the sites shown, click on the 'i' (identify) button on the toolbar at the top of the page. A cursor appears which you can drag to the site that interests you. Click again on the actual site and this brings up a pop-up with details of the site plus a link to a report (if available). I clicked on a scheduled barrow visible near the bottom centre of the map and the pop-up (Fig.19) says it is part of the Seven Hills tumuli. Another three scheduled hills are hidden beneath the SSSI blanket, which you can see by de-selecting SSSIs. It should be possible, with landowner's permission, to detect around the tumuli outside the SSSI up to the boundaries of the scheduling. You can check exactly what the extent of the scheduling is with the landowner, Historic Environment Record at <http://www.heritagegateway.org.uk/> or Magic. A simple Google search



Fig.18. Magic website showing SSSI (green) and Scheduled Ancient Monuments (orange) in Norfolk. © Crown Copyright and database rights 2015. Ordnance Survey 100022861.

Fig.19. Magic identify pop-up on 'Seven Hills'. © Crown Copyright and database rights 2015.



Fig.20. Late Bronze Age hoard consisting of 21 objects including: two end winged axe fragments; seven socketed axe fragments; one socketed fragment; three copper alloy fragments; one sheet metal fragment; and seven ingot fragments. © 2011 Kent County Council and reused under a Creative Commons Attribution-ShareAlike 2.0 Generic License.

Fig.21. Ringlemere Cup © 2001 Portable Antiquities Scheme and reused under a Creative Commons Attribution 2.0 Generic License.



Fig.22. 1990 crop mark of Ringlemere barrows. Map data © 2015, Google, Kent County Council.

on the Seven Hills tumuli provides further information, not least that there were originally 12 'hills' or more.

Just to finish with two examples of Bronze Age finds already made, I dug up a founder's hoard in 2011 comprising 21 pieces of axe and ingot fragments spread over 40 metres (Fig.20). I wasn't particularly looking for Bronze Age artefacts as the field was part of a medieval manor site. I knew there was a slight mound where I found the hoard, although I

could not see anything on aerial photographs to suggest it was once a barrow. It may have just been a natural mound on high ground overlooking a stream.

Ten years earlier Cliff Bradshaw found the Ringlemere gold cup with a metal detector (Fig.21). While searching the field for Saxon material he was aware that the field contained the remains of a ploughed-out large circular mound and in the centre of this, he found the cup. Cliff probably did not know that lurking in the

archives was an aerial photograph of the site taken in 1990, which is now available on Google Earth via the time slider clock icon on the top tool bar. (I wrote about this feature in 'Views of the Landscape' in *Treasure Hunting* June 2015.) The aerial image shows crop marks of two large circles (Fig.22). Several smaller circles are scattered around (not shown) making at least nine in total. It was the largest circular earthwork, possibly a henge, which yielded the cup. [TH]



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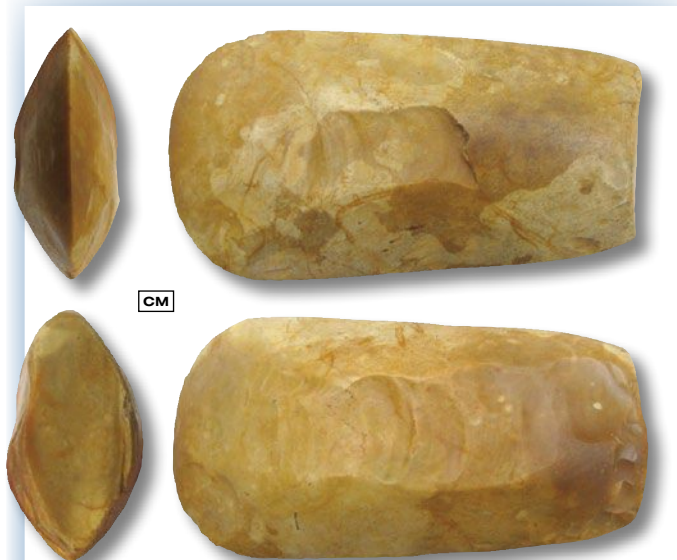
I have been given the opportunity of writing the PAS finds round-up for June. In the month of June, 6922 artefacts were recorded on the database across 5993 records. I have been with the PAS for over two years now, first as a volunteer and latterly as a Finds Liaison Assistant for Wiltshire and Dorset. During that time, I have worked with a diverse range of finds and have experienced a steep learning curve. Artefacts recorded on the database continue to enhance our knowledge and understanding of the past and thanks must go to all the finders who have recorded on it.



CM

Microlith

This Group B scalene microlith (SWYOR-83C74C) dates from around 8000-4000 BC. It is made from a mottled grey flint and exhibits abrupt, sub-parallel, short retouch running along one side. Weighing just 0.11gm, this microlith would have been part of a set making up a composite weapon such as a spearhead or knife blade. I find microliths fascinating, partly because of the craftsmanship involved in producing the fine flakes and then the further refinements produced by retouch to produce such precise tools. Unique ID: SWYOR-83C74C



CM

Polished Axehead

This Neolithic (c.3800-2500 BC) polished axehead is interesting not only for its original purpose, but for the way in which it was reused. Polishing is a functional technique when applied to the edges of a lithic object such as an axehead. By polishing out the flake removal scars, the shock of impact during use is more evenly distributed, prolonging the longevity of the axehead. Polishing across the body, however, is simply for aesthetic purposes and would have taken a significant amount of time. The axehead is manufactured from a yellow flint veined with red and would have looked particularly attractive when the object was intact. This axehead was apparently broken during use after which several flakes were removed before it was finally discarded. It may be that the axehead was repurposed as a core due to the high quality of the flint; alternatively the flakes may have been removed for ritual purposes. Unique ID: LIN-5AA533

Bronze Age Chisel

This Late Bronze Age tanged chisel was found in Swansea Bay and is probably from the Wilburton or Ewart Park metal working industry. The squared tang is largely missing due to damage during deposition and widens to form a flanged shoulder. Below this the curved sides of the blade diverge to form a fan-shaped blade with a curved blade edge. The original edge of the blade is missing, so there is no evidence for differential wear which may indicate how it was used. Similar chisels have been found in the Eaton Hoard in Norwich and in the Brogyntyn Hoard in Shropshire.

Fan-bladed tanged chisels are quite scarce relative to those with more conventional round or squared blades and this may hint at a specific purpose, although it is difficult to state with any certainty. It is hoped that this find, along with others from the same region will be used as part of a community archaeology project on Swansea Bay.

Julia Köppe, from Hamburg University, is also currently carrying out research into Bronze Age artefacts from the Bay found by metal detectorists. Unique ID: NMGW-EAB966



CM



CM

Bucket Mount

This is a fantastic example of a copper-alloy Late Iron Age or Early Roman zoomorphic bucket mount from Yorkshire. The head is cast three dimensionally and is a chunky sub-triangular shape with one forward facing horn projecting from either side of the head and a backward facing hook projecting centrally from the upper edge.

The reverse of the mount is concave and contains a white material, which may have served as an adhesive in fitting the mount to the body of the vessel. The eyes are deeply recessed and one retains traces of reddish-brown enamel. The eyes are surrounded by a series of long radiating grooves denoting eyelashes.

Zoomorphic bucket mounts are found throughout the British Isles and sometimes feature other animals such as stags' or rams' heads. We don't know the precise reason why these animals were chosen or the purpose of the vessels they were attached to. Angie Bolton (FLO Warwickshire & Worcestershire) is currently researching this class of artefact which will hopefully enable us to learn more about them. Unique ID: YORYM-005786

Roman Brooch

I couldn't let this article pass without mentioning something from my own county – especially since this beautiful copper-alloy enamelled Roman plate brooch (WILT-82530E) is also the 20,000th PAS record for Wiltshire. Thanks must go to the dedicated finders and recorders for this remarkable total. The elaborate design features a projecting central boss with a circular recess filled with yellow-green enamel. This is surrounded by radiating petals, each tipped with a peripheral lug, some of which have broken off during deposition. Each petal is connected to its neighbour by a series of crescent shapes, and the brooch as a whole is decorated by alternating fields of blue and yellow enamel. The style of this brooch is very unusual and it is exceptionally well preserved. The elaborate design allows us to assign it a continental origin and give it a narrow date range of around AD 140-180. Unique ID: WILT-82530E



CM

Roman Figurine

Although it has seen better days, there is still something undeniably appealing about this Roman copper-alloy figurine of a cockerel (BERK-2BFFB8). Cockerels are frequently depicted using a variety of materials in Roman art due to their association with the god Mercury. The beak and the comb are both missing due to old damage, as are the feet and the tail plume, but the eyes are strikingly picked out with the addition of small silver pins. The body of the cockerel is covered by a pattern of incused lines to denote the feathers. This figurine may have been a votive figure and may have been kept in a household or temple shrine as part of a group of figures. Unique ID: BERK-2BFFB8



CM

King John Silver Penny

Given that the celebrations for Magna Carta have been in full swing this month, it seemed apt to include this silver penny of John (1199-1216) especially since it is in unusually good condition. Coins of this period tend to wear heavily, partly because of the low quality silver they were manufactured from. This class 5b coin dates from 1205-1207, around a decade prior to Magna Carta and was minted at Canterbury by Iohan, or John, master of the mint at this time. The obverse depicts a crowned bust facing with sceptre, whilst the reverse shows a voided short cross with a quatrefoil in each quadrant. Unique ID: IOW-958A85



CM

Papal Bulla

Papal bullae were used as seals on official papal documents sent out from Rome as a means of authentication. This particular example is probably of Pope Eugenius IV, pope from 1431-1447. It is made of lead decorated with an impressed design on both faces. Only half of the artefact now survives. The existing half depicts St Peter facing left, whilst the missing half would have featured an image of St Paul. The opposite face exhibits the inscription .EV[]/ IVS[...]/ II[...]/ beneath a cross pattee, which has been cut in half on the long axis.

On top of the intrinsic interest of such objects, this example seems to have been deliberately cut in half along the line of the missing central chord and pierced, possibly in order to be reused as an amulet or similar. Unique ID: HAMP-975133



CM



CM

Harness Pendant

It is lovely to see a medieval (c.AD 1200-1400) heraldic horse pendant in such good condition. Although some damage has been caused by movement within the plough soil abrading some of the surface detail and enamel, it has survived remarkably well. This example (WMID-7F4243) comes from the West Midlands. It is an elaborate quatrefoil shape with the suspension loop missing. It is divided into nine cells filled with alternating red and blue enamel. The central field features a design of a four-legged animal and there is a debased fleur de lis in each of the blue enamel sections. Heraldic harness pendants were produced in a variety of sizes and qualities. They were worn to denote membership of a household or the status of the wearer and can sometimes be identified to a particular person or family. Unique ID: WMID-7F4243



CM

Purse Bar Section

Unfortunately only a short section of this copper-alloy purse bar (BERK-92294E) survives. Purse bars date from the late medieval to post medieval period (c.AD 1400-1500) and formed part of the frame to which a fabric bag could be sewn.

The arm is cylindrical with a rounded expansion terminal at one end. Two integral pierced lugs, which would have been the attachment points for the fabric, extend from the underside of the arm. It carries an incised inscription inlaid with niello which reads + MINI[...] / NOSTRI.

David Williams has suggested that the legend in its entirety may have read DOMINI NOSTRI IUSU CHRIST – “Our Lord Jesus Christ”. Given the political and religious turmoil that ensued in the centuries following the production of this purse, it gives us a tiny snapshot into both the beliefs and the fashions of this period. Unique ID: BERK-92294E

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Coins of the Tudors and Stuarts **Edward VI**

Part 2



Fig.30. Edward VI, gold sovereign, third period, Tower mint (© Fitzwilliam Museum, Cambridge).



Fig.31. Edward VI, gold half sovereign, third period, Tower mint (© Fitzwilliam Museum, Cambridge).



Fig.32. Edward VI, gold crown, third period, Tower mint (© Fitzwilliam Museum, Cambridge).



Fig.33. Edward VI, gold halfcrown, third period, Tower mint (© Fitzwilliam Museum, Cambridge).



Fig.34. Edward VI, silver crown, third period, 1552, Tower mint (© Fitzwilliam Museum, Cambridge).



Fig.35. Edward VI, silver halfcrown, third period, 1551, Tower mint (© Fitzwilliam Museum, Cambridge).

Continued from the August 2015 issue of Treasure Hunting.

Third Period and Return to Fine Silver (1550-3)

In 1550 the fineness of the gold coinage was improved further, at least for the sovereign of 30s and the 10s angel and its half. These are very rare coins but the 22ct standard was continued for the rest of the gold coinage; namely the 20s sovereign, half sovereign, crown and

halfcrown (Figs.30-33). Each of these depict an attractive half-length figure of the king, crowned and in armour, bearing a sword and sceptre. In 1551 the silver standard was returned to the quality it had enjoyed before the Great Debasement of 1544 and there was a clear and concerted attempt to convert the majority of the previous base issues into new good quality money. Production was the responsibility of the Tower mint and that at York and with the new

standard came new denominations in silver. The silver crowns and halfcrowns bore a handsome equestrian figure of the king on the obverse with the date in Arabic numerals included on an English coin for the first time (Figs.34 & 35). The new denominations of sixpence and threepence joined the shilling, penny and farthing. The three larger of these were of a new style with a facing bust and for the first time the penny value of the coin was shown in Roman numerals



Fig.36. Edward VI, silver shilling, third period, Tower mint (© Fitzwilliam Museum, Cambridge).



Fig.37. Edward VI, silver sixpence, third period, Tower mint (© Fitzwilliam Museum, Cambridge).



Fig.38. Edward VI, silver threepence, third period, Tower mint (© Fitzwilliam Museum, Cambridge).



Fig.39. Edward VI, silver penny, third period, Tower mint (© Fitzwilliam Museum, Cambridge).

Fig.40. Ireland. Edward VI, sixth harp issue (1547) sixpenny groat in the name of Henry VIII.

The omission of the regnal year identifies this type as belonging to the early years of Edward's reign. (© Fitzwilliam Museum, Cambridge).



Fig.44. Ireland. Edward VI in the name of Henry VIII, three farthings (© Fitzwilliam Museum, Cambridge).



Fig.41. Ireland. Edward VI in the name of Henry VIII, sixpence (© Fitzwilliam Museum, Cambridge).



Fig.42. Ireland. Edward VI in the name of Henry VIII, threepence (© Fitzwilliam Museum, Cambridge).



Fig.43. Ireland. Edward VI in the name of Henry VIII, three halfpence (© Fitzwilliam Museum, Cambridge).

next to the king's left ear with a large rose opposite (Figs.36-38) The pennies reverted to the sovereign style seen in earlier reigns (Figs.39).

Ireland

The first Irish coins minted in Edward's reign were a continuation of the harp groats of his father and were minted posthumously for a short time (Fig.40). Between 1547 and c.1550 posthumous old head coins were minted in four denominations, the sixpence, threepence, three halfpence and three farthings (Figs.41-44). Each of these conformed to a similar design with the dead king's bust on the obverse and the quartered arms over a cross on the reverse, except on the tiny three farthings which used a cross and pellets. There is some variation in the quality of engraving of the bust, the earliest style appears to be from dies made in England while later ones

degenerate and are from locally produced dies. The reverses give the mint name as Dublin although production was moved from Dublin to London during the reign. Indeed the cost of producing coin in London and transporting it to Ireland was cheaper than producing indigenous coin in silver. Base English shillings were also imported into Ireland in 1552, and it is possible that these coins were produced expressly for that purpose (Fig.45).

Scotland

Mary Queen of Scots (1542-67) is a familiar if tragic figure in the history of Scotland. She was the daughter of James V and Mary of Guise and grew up in the French court alongside the children of the French king. Her father died in 1542 and Mary, then just six days old, became queen. In the early years a regency, headed by James Earl of Arran was established, and the first coins in

Mary's name were minted under his authority. A number of denominations were struck in the first period (1542-58) in gold, silver and base metal. The gold consisted of a 44 shilling and 22 shilling piece (Figs.46 & 47). The obverse of both these coins are comprised of the crowned arms of Scotland with the inscription **+MARIA DEI GRA R SCOTORVM** and the initials **I** and **G** either side of the shield for **IACOBVS GUBERNATOR** (the Regent James). The reverse continues the legend **DILIGITE IVSTICIAM** 'Observe Justice' around a monogram of Maria Regina. All bear the date 1553. In silver were the testoons, valued at four shilling Scots and its half. The three types are of different design, the first carries a portrait of the young queen on one side and the lion rampant within a shield on the reverse, the second, on a finer silver standard and valued at 5 shilling bore a crowned **M** and the lion shield over cross



Fig.45. Ireland. Edward VI, base imitation of a shilling (© Fitzwilliam Museum, Cambridge).



Fig.46. Scotland. Mary, gold 44s piece, Edinburgh (© Fitzwilliam Museum, Cambridge).



Fig.47. Scotland. Mary, gold 22s piece, Edinburgh (© Fitzwilliam Museum, Cambridge).



Fig.48. Scotland. Mary, silver testoon, type IIIa, 1556, Edinburgh. The M and R either side of the shield stand for Maria Regina while the reverse inscription IN VIRTUTE TVA LIBERA ME means 'In Thy strength deliver me' (© Fitzwilliam Museum, Cambridge).



Fig.49. Scotland. Mary, silver half testoon, type IIIa, 1556, Edinburgh. (© Fitzwilliam Museum, Cambridge).



Fig.50. Scotland. Mary, billon bawbee of three-quarter alloy, this type has a fluted saltire of later coins in the series, Edinburgh (© Fitzwilliam Museum, Cambridge).



Fig.51. Scotland. Mary, billon plack, 1557, Edinburgh (© Fitzwilliam Museum, Cambridge).



Fig.52. Scotland. Mary, billon lion of one-twelfth alloy, dated 1556 (© Fitzwilliam Museum, Cambridge).

potent, while the third, and most common type, depicts the lion rampant on one side and cross and crosslets design on the reverse (Figs.48 & 49).

Base metal coins continued to make up the lower denomination pieces in Scotland. The bawbee, valued at sixpence, was struck for Mary in 1543 in continuation of her father's coins (Fig.50). The obverse shows a crowned thistle with **M** and **R** to either side while on the reverse is a saltire cross through crown with cinquefoils to either side. The cinquefoil was a symbol of the Hamilton Earls of Arran. The reverse inscription gives the name Edinburgh, where most were struck, but a small issue is known from Stirling and dated to 1544. In 1557 the billon plack was struck again for the first time since 1526 (Fig.51). The crowned shield of the larger denominations was used on the obverse while on the reverse the ornate cross with plain cross in the centre is surrounded by the inscription

SERVIO ET VSV TEROR ('I serve and am worn by use'). The billon lion, or 'hardhead', was valued at one and a half pence and borrowed the crowned **M** design from the type II silver testoons for its obverse design (Fig.52). The reverse bears a rampant lion surrounded by the inscription **VICIT VERITAS** ('Truth has conquered'). Mary's story would later become entangled with that of the English monarchs and will be continued in the next instalments covering the reign of Mary Tudor and Elizabeth.

Death

Edward died on 6 July 1553, the most likely cause thought to be tuberculosis and was buried at Westminster Abbey. Although brief, Edward's reign saw the virtual restoration of the English coinage to something approaching the quality it had enjoyed before the debasement. The introduction of new denominations and the addition of dates and value on many

coins brought the English coinage up to date within the context of the broader European picture. Before he died he made alterations to the succession from his sisters Mary and Elizabeth to Jane Grey, the unfortunate 'nine days queen'. Next time we'll move on to the coinage of Edward's sister Mary.

Further Reading

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Note: Coins and medals in this article are shown at actual size (100% scale). **TH**



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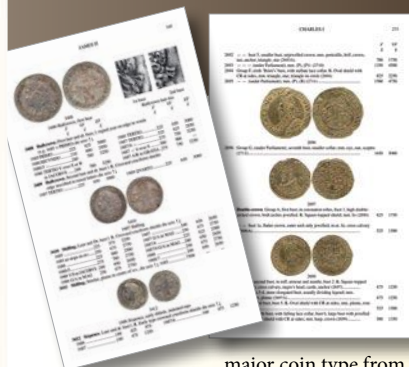
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Why Do We Find So Much Lead?

Gordon Bailey

Part 1



Fig.1. Lead shot of various sizes intended for use in both muskets and pistols.



Fig.3. Brunswick shot (note the outer raised rim to fit the gun's rifling).



Fig.4. Unfired shot.



Fig.2. Large lead shot weighing an ounce.

Not more lead! How many times have we said that, or heard other people say it, when searching the fields? It seems sometimes that it has been growing along with the previous year's crops!

It is surprising just how many artefacts in the past were made from this metal, but the reason is clear. It was widely available, easy to work, and has a low melting point; in fact, it had everything in its favour (apart from some dangerous qualities that weren't appreciated at the time). Not all lead finds qualify as 'junk' or scrap. When recently going through my own collection, accumulated over many years, I realised that some of my favourite finds were, in fact, made from this humble metal.

At the time of the Roman Invasion and Occupation, Britain was rich in various metals and minerals much sought after by the invaders. These included: copper, gold, iron, salt, silver and tin. The Romans also held lead in high esteem

and employed it to make many items that were essential in their everyday lives such as guttering, plumbing pipes, pewter dishes, coffins, slingshot ammo etc.

When they invaded Britain one of their main objectives was to take over the Mendip mines in Somerset. During Nero's reign (AD 54-68) lead ingots or pigs weighing some 2cwt each were being exported to Gaul. Before the end of the century mines were operating in Derbyshire, Yorkshire, and Clwyd. These mines were so highly prized that soldiers were set to guard them. The Mendip mines were assigned to the Legion II Augusta. There are some surviving ingots that have this legion's name stamped on them, while others survive with the emperor's name. The Romans knew how to process and extract a small amount of silver from the mined lead. This, in turn,

was ideal for producing many desirable artefacts and, of course, coinage.

Apart from scrap pieces of lead, the most common find that turns up must be lead shot that was fired from muzzle-loading muskets or pistols. These lead balls come in various sizes depending on the size of the bore of the weapon used to fire them. The reason for their presence could be down to hunting, actual skirmishes or battles, civilian target shooting, or military musketry training. If you come across a butt used by the military, it is possible that you might find hundreds of musket balls in one area rather than just the odd one or two. As each lead shot could weigh around an ounce, this might mean several trips to get them all back to the car!

Firearms apparently originated in Hungary in the 15th century with the invention of the arquebus. This weapon soon made its appearance on a wide scale in European conflicts although did not seem to have any great effect as an individually-carried weapon in

Why Do We Find So Much Lead?



Fig.5. Musket balls with casting sprues.

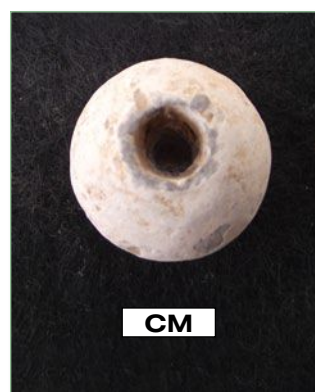


Fig.6. Musket shot with 'worm hole'. This shows that it has been removed from the musket barrel due to misfire.



Fig.7. So-called 'grape shot' possibly held in a canister or shell before firing.



Fig.8. Musket lead flint holders with knapped flint still in situ.

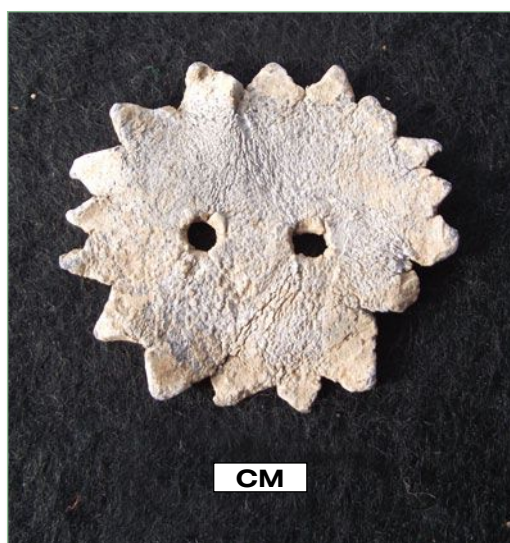


Fig.9. 'Whirligig' toy.

battle compared to the bow and arrow. However, the loud noise would perhaps have helped demoralise the enemy and panicked the horses of any opposing mounted troops.

It needed the user to hold the weapon (without the modern rifle stock – usually held underarm in the old depictions) and use a slow match to ignite the charge. This developed into the matchlock that still used a slow burning cord (soaked in saltpetre) to ignite the charge in the touch hole of the weapon. However, it also

involved a primitive trigger mechanism (the 'serpent') allowing the user to aim and fire. A development of this was the 'wheelock' mechanism used on both pistols and long-arms. This involved a burred wheel running against a flint to create a spark and thus avoid the need for a continually burning slow match (not great when it raining or when you had to use a tinder box to light it in the first place!). But the weapon needed the wheel to be wound up with a key to work, and the early version were made by clock or watchmakers and were extremely expensive to produce and purchase. Officers may have been able to personally afford them but they were too expensive for general issue.

Next in the evolution in the gun was the 'snaphaunce'. This was an earlier version of the flintlock mechanism that was to follow and take over firearm design for over 200 years. Flintlock muskets included the Brown Bess that was used by the British Army in many conflicts before being replaced by percussion cap (or 'top

hat' due to its shape) in the early 1800s. In 1836 a rifle was submitted by a Mr. Seabright to an evaluation completion that was acting on behalf of the Duke of Brunswick. The rifle was invented by a Captain Berners who was serving in the Duke of Brunswick's forces. The gun had two very wide grooves that made a complete turn inside its barrel. The special ammunition used was ball shaped but had a raised rim around the outside diameter (it was thus known as a 'belted ball') to match the rifling grooves.

Not all the lead balls we find were fired from matchlocks or muskets. During the English Civil War small cannon were used known as falconets. They had two large wheels attached to give them mobility and had first seen use in the 1620s in Germany during the Thirty Years War. The gun could fire a bag containing 24 lead shot and in its time was quite a dangerous anti-personnel weapon. During the English Civil War many members of the nobility owned such a cannon to help protect their property during troubled times.

At the time of the English Civil War matchlock guns did not have a standard



Fig.10.
Lead
caps
from
17th
century
'Apostle'
powder
boxes.



Fig.11.
Cap with
long
handle.

Fig.12. Converted charger/box cover.



Fig.13. Plain lead 'buttons'. These were normally used as weights for dresses or curtains.

Fig.14. Numbered lead button as used on soldiers' uniforms in the mid-18th century.



bore size and each came with its own ball mould. Should a musketeer run out of shot, and be unable to remould or replace lead balls of his own gun's bore size, one expedient could be to scrape down oversize shot with an implement such as a knife.

Some lead balls are found showing bite marks. One theory is that this was to make them an early form of 'dum-dum' bullet so that they would spread on impact.

Another more plausible theory is that soldiers were told to bite down on them during painful operations and amputations (hence the saying, 'bite the bullet').

In 1630, and again in 1638, the Council of War attempted to standardise the matchlock bores to 12 balls to the pound of lead, while the carbine and pistol would use 24 to the pound.

On the odd occasion you might come across lead ball with a hole in it. These resulted when a musket misfired and the charge had to be manually removed with a 'worm'. The worm had one or two spiral shaped prongs at one end and a tapered screw; the other end terminated in an adaptor to fit the ramrod. To remove the

lodged musket ball the worm, attached to the ramrod, would have been inserted into the barrel and then turned clockwise until a purchase had been secured. The ball was then removed from the barrel and the faulty powder tapped out or washed away with boiling water.

Lead ammunition was produced in the fields when soldiers camped out during the Civil War. They would have cast these in 'leisure' moments making sure they had ample ammunition at all times. Some of these supplies were left on site; possibly overlooked or abandoned when the owners left in a hurry. You sometimes find them moulded but unfinished as they still have the sprue attached.

Some time ago I recovered such a catch of lead. Part of it consisted of lead balls still with the sprue intact, then there were pieces of lead dross, and a piece of lead that came from the inner base of the melting pot; this being oval shaped at the base and flat at the top.

Not all lead balls were used in 'fire-arms'. From the Tudor through to the Georgian period the crossbow was used to fire lead balls when hunting. The crossbow made to handle this ammuni-

tion was both cheaper and quieter to use than a gun if not so effective or accurate.

Another item associated with the flintlock gun was the lead flint holder. This was a thin, flat piece of lead that was wrapped around one half of the flint. The whole was then placed in the jaws of the locking holder that had a screw to hold it in place.

During the 17th century musketeers carried charges for the matchlocks in bandoleers across their shoulders, normally 12 in number – hence the term 'apostles'. Each wooden box carried a measured charge of black powder for one shot. Some of the tops or caps of these wooden cylinders were made of wood while others were moulded from lead and were bucket shaped with a small loop on each side. The loops were attached to a cord, allowing them to slide up and down.

Some caps are found complete with loops, meaning that the musketeer placed them over the charge box without them being attached to the retaining cord. Other 'caps' recovered have a long handle

Why Do We Find So Much Lead?

Fig.15. Homemade pipe tamper.



Figs.17a & b. Tobacco jar lid handles.

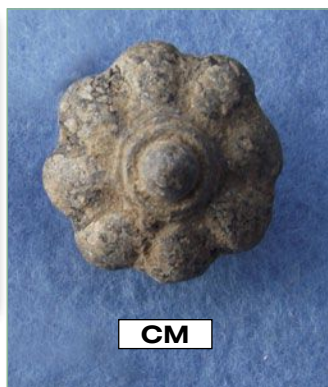


Fig.16. Lead tobacco jar with lid dating to the 18th century. This was recovered from the Thames foreshore.

Figs.18a & b. Possibly part of a lid from a small tobacco jar.



attached to their base. These seem to have been converted, possibly as black powder measures.

Some unusual pieces of lead pipe have been recovered. I can recall that many years ago a detectorist found a length of crude lead pipe. He thought it nothing unusual, but prised open one end. When he did so out poured an array of Civil War coins. This occurred again recently although the coins were not so numerous. Before you 'start counting your chickens', however, remember that until as late as the 1970s, many houses were fitted with lead plumbing.

Children's toys known as 'whirligigs' or pinwheels were in use in Europe at least before the 16th century as depicted in a painting by Pieter Bruegel dating to 1560. However, the toy is known to have been in use in the years before BC.

The lead examples we find normally originate from the 18th or 19th centuries. They are strange-looking large round flat pieces of lead with a serrated edge and two centrally placed small holes. The piercings were to take a loop of cord one end of which was held in each hand. The device was spun clockwise to create some turns on the cord, which was then pulled outwards repeatedly by both hands causing the whirligig to spin at a fast rate, and create a noise due to the serrations around the diameter.

Similar items to these, but without the serrations, may have also been used as toys in the same way but this is open to

conjecture. It is more likely that they were used as dress weights, so that the garment hung evenly, or sewn into the bottom hem of curtains for the same reason.

Although lead, being soft and prone to wear, is an unusual metal from which to make buttons, I have seen them still attached to surviving uniforms of soldiers (pre-1800) in museums, some even with existing numbers on them.

In the past, when people could not afford to purchase a ready-made item, it is surprising what they could make for themselves. One such example is the pipe tamper. These can be fairly accurately dated from the size of the base. Over the centuries as tobacco became cheaper this increased in diameter to fit the size of clay pipe bowls.

The artistic quality of some of these homemade examples often left a lot to be desired and were quite crude, but as long as they served their purpose that was all that mattered. If you find such an example they obviously do not have much financial value, but they are obviously of much interest in terms of social history.

Lead tobacco jars, made with reasonably airtight seals, were made to keep the substance fresh. Complete examples as detector finds are rare, as they are rather

large to find their way into the ground as chance losses but large enough to invite plough damage. In detecting terms, the small handles from the lids are far more common finds and turn up in a variety of designs.

Trade has always played a large part in the history of Britain, and this is



Fig.19. Lead seals of various types recovered from inland trading sites.

Fig.20. Two lead seals, both dated 1787 and of foreign origin (possibly from the Baltic).



Fig.21. Lead seal from bag of guano fertiliser; these are frequently found on farmland sites.



Figs.22a & b. Rare lead seal showing the Coat of Arms of London on one side, an angel holding an orb and sceptre and the wording GLORIA IN EXCELCIS. The other side depicts the Coat of Arms of London and the wording DE LONDI ONO. This seal dates 1625-1631 and is possibly connected with Blackwell Hall and the cloth trade.

Apart from two-part seals there were also four-part although the latter are far rarer than the former. The seals we find show a variety of sizes, both large and small, although smaller examples seem to have been more common use. The designs used on seals can be interesting but are often weak and struck off centre. Some seals carry the word 'died' but that is due to the term being spelt phonetically for 'dyed'. It was not until Dr. Samuel Johnson compiled

his famous *Dictionary of the English Language*, published in 1755, that any real standardised spelling came into being.

The various colorants used by the dyers, could have a stamp relating to them and initials on the seals could relate to those who inspected the cloth.

Some particularly interesting seals were produced in Colchester, Essex as Dutch refugees from the Continent settled here in the 16th and 17th centuries and began to manufacture textiles. Due to their success in this industry, rival textile manufacturers began to counterfeit their seals. The seals of the immigrant weavers included 'Dutch' within the wording, although in various spellings of the word.

Many of the known examples carry the date 1571. However, this may refer to the year that they were first established, as the same date was used on such seals until 1728 when the Dutch

weavers ceased to be a separate entity from other textile manufactures in this country.

Between the mid 17th and early 18th century all worsted cloth was examined at Norwich in Norfolk to ensure that it was of good length. At each end of the cloth was attached a lead seal, one of which carried the surname and initials of each of the 12 Wardens of the Company relating to that particular year. At the end of the other of the bale was a seal with the words 'Worsted Reformed'. However, some seals have the words 'Too Short'. These would have been attached to worsted bales that were shorter than the permitted length.

In collecting terms certain seals appear to be more popular than others as they bear the bust of various monarchs, these being: Charles II, James II, William and Mary, William III, Anne and George I. These are known as alnage seals and were attached to rolls of cloth rather than bales.

The word 'alnage' derives from a person called an 'Alnager'. He was the person who checked the rolls of cloth for quality and size. A payment of three-halfpence was paid to the Crown for the attachment of these seals.

The reverse would record that the tax had been paid and carry a design such as a rose surmounted by a crown, three fleur-de-lys, or Britannia seated holding a spear or olive branch. There are also other variants include a lion rampant within a shield surmounted by a crown, a portcullis, an orb surmounted by a cross, St George and the Dragon, or a three-plumed coronet.

TH

reflected in the amount of cloth seals that we recover throughout the country both inland and from the foreshores of industrial rivers. On rare occasions seals are recovered still having a piece of the original cloth attached. The most common form of seal was the two-part type, this consisting of two round discs of lead connected by a strip of the same metal. In their unused form one of the discs would have had a central hole and the other a protrusion intended for use as a rivet. When in use, the rivet of the seal was passed through the covering material of the bale, and then flattened over.



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Indicates the target's ID - Volume - Choice of coil -
Battery condition displayed

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Club and Rally Round-Up

Invicta Seekers MDC

June Finds of the Month Coins

1st – Victoria half sovereign 1899, Greg Sweetman
2nd – Alexander III penny, Mick Longman
3rd – Elizabeth I sixpence 1578, Barry Reeves

Artefacts

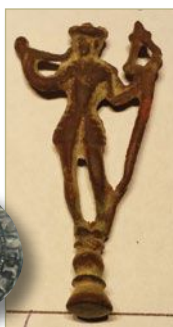
1st – Georgian shoe buckle, John Stocker
Joint 2nd – Medieval inscribed purse bar, Mick Longman and a pipe tamper, Greg Sweetman
Greg Sweetman

Victoria half sovereign.



Alexander III penny.

Pipe tamper.



Elizabeth I sixpence.



Georgian shoe buckle.



Medieval inscribed purse bar.



Copy Date for October 2015 Issue

Please send your Club reports for inclusion in the October 2015 issue by 9.30am on Monday 10 August at the latest, but earlier would be appreciated.
Send to judith@acguk.com

Two Dales MDC Addingham, West Yorkshire

The winners of the **Find of the Month** at our July meeting were:-

Coin of the Month – Corieltavi gold stater, Danny Morrell

Artefact of the Month – Horse pendant, Ken Hurst
Under 300 Years – Crinoline weight, David Harrison
Andy Whelan

Coin of the Month.



Under 300 Years.



Artefact of the Month.

New Club – Merthyr Tydfil MDC

Ring, possibly Roman.



Seal matrix.



Edward silver hammered.



Bronze Age flanged axe.



Early Bronze Age axe with designs.



Roman coins.



Bronze Age axe.



We are a brand new club which has been well overdue for our town. We are going from strength to strength with over 12 people attending our second meeting. The table has been full and a lot of the finds have gone to Cardiff Museum. As well as an Iron Age bronze hoard consisting of 11 axes, another three have also been found in various

locations taking us up to 15 axes in two months.

Shown here are a few of our finds.

Anthony Thomas

Norwich Detectors

Artefact of the Month.



Ancient to 1066 Coin.



Find of the Month.

1066 to 1509 Coin.



Tony Gregory Award.

1509 to Modern Coin.



Committee Award.



June meeting

Find of the Month – Part of a 6th century great headed brooch, Dave Fox

Artefact of the Month – Late Saxon stirrup mount with dragon decoration, Mark Venables

Coin of the Month

Ancient to 1066 – Snettisham-type gold quarter stater, Jerry Wentford

1066 to 1509 – Richard I penny, York mint, Mark Dover
1509 to Modern – Charles II penny, Mark Dover

Tony Gregory Award – Sword scabbard chape, Mark Coggles

Committee Award – Elizabeth I half sovereign coin weight, Mark Dover
Graeme Simmonds, Chairperson

Essex Detector Society

June Finds of the Month Coins

1st – Aethelred II cut quarter Oxford mint, Nick Argent

2nd – Porcupine sceatta, Rick Johnson

3rd – Henry II coin, York mint, Susan Coote

Artefacts

1st – Medieval merchant's ring 14th-15th century, Perry Coote

2nd – Victoria seal matrix, Nigel Pryor

3rd – Saxon wrist strap, Liam Argent

Other finds included a Richard I class 4a, Perry Coote; Edward penny, Mick White; Edward coin, Philip Price; Charles I penny, Sheridan Vaughan; Charles I Scottish 20 pence, Liam Argent; scabbard chape, Mike Steele; snake buckle, Rick Johnson; token, Mick White; Grantham half-penny trade token 1667, Nick Argent and a pastry cutter, Sheridan Vaughan.

Tony Robson

Merchant's ring.

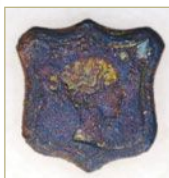


Aethelred II cut quarter.



Henry II coin.

Porcupine sceatta.



Seal matrix.

Saxon wrist clasp.



Herts & District MDS

Our guest speaker at the June meeting was Dr. Roger Bland, from the Department of Britain, Europe and Prehistory at the British Museum. His excellent presentation on 'Coin Hoards in Britain' highlighted how the detailed research on these hoards is adding valuable information to our nation's history.

Coin of the Month – Commonwealth half groat, Peter Cross

Artefact of the Month – Small Roman brooch, Roger Paul

Also in the finds tray were a George III contemporary copy of a third of a guinea and a Stuart buckle both from Clive Reddish; and a Walthamstow halfpenny 1813 and an Elizabeth I penny, both from Peter Cross. Not found on a club site but definitely worthy of a mention is Roger Paul's gold Celtic stater of Addeddomaros.

David Roberts, Chairman

Commonwealth half groat.



Roman brooch.



Gold stater Addeddomaros.

Elizabeth I penny.



Walthamstow halfpenny.



Stuart buckle.

Trowbridge & District MDC

Roman tweezers.



Roman umbonate brooch.



Trajan silver denarius.



Medieval brooch/buckle.



Gary Cook and his silver stater.



Paul Walker and his dagger chape.



We had a full house at the May meeting. Our regular venue is undergoing renovations, and in fact with the large turnout, plus guests, there was standing room only.

Artefact of the Month was a dagger chape found by Paul Walker and **Coin of the Month** was a silver stater found by Gary Cook.

Other finds on the table included a Roman umbonate brooch, a Trajan silver denarius,

Roman tweezers and a medieval brooch/buckle.

David Rees, Chairman

King John penny.



Henry VIII groat.



Silver wire ring.

Medieval silver brooch.



Gold thimble.



Elizabeth I sixpence.



John Parry on the left at the cheque presentation.

Crewe & Nantwich MDS

Viking re-enactors Linda and Sonnie Rae gave us an excellent presentation on 'Women in the Viking Age' at the May meeting.

Chairman John Parry and Dennis Woodfine, incoming President for Whitchurch Lions Club presented a cheque for £600 to Lyndsey, the area fundraiser for Hope House charity, which was a result of monies raised at an open rally in Cheshire. Our grateful thanks as always to participating land-owners
<https://sites.google.com/site/candnmds>



Coin of the Month

1st – King John voided Short Cross penny, Jay Hurst

2nd – Henry VIII groat, Keith Pay

3rd – Elizabeth I sixpence 1567, Martin Tobitt

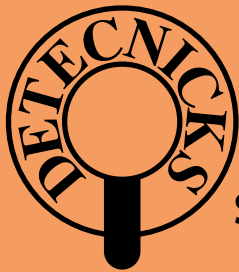
Artefact of the Month

1st – Silver wire ring, Stewart Roberts

2nd – Gold thimble, Jay Hurst

3rd – Medieval silver brooch, Keith Pay

John Parry, Chairman



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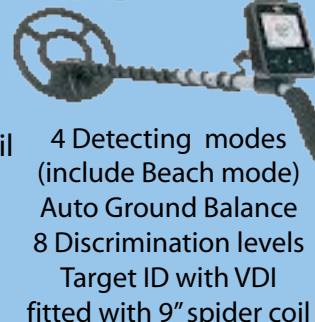
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Quakers Acres MDC

June meeting

We have been out on new farm pasture for the last month with mixed results, very much like the weather.

Coin of the Month

1st – Henry III Short Cross penny, Graeme Thompson
2nd – Elizabeth I clipped sixpence 1594, Colin Rowell
Joint 3rd – Elizabeth I clipped sixpence 1593, Graeme

Thompson and a Victoria sixpence 1841, Graeme Thompson

Artefact of the Month

1st – Decorated spindle whorl, John Crammond
2nd – Silver cigarette holder ferrule, Graeme Thompson
3rd – Robert Raikes Sunday School founder medallion 1880, Andy W

Graeme Thompson, Secretary

Henry III Short Cross Penny.



Spindle whorl.

Cigarette holder ferrule.



Elizabeth I sixpence 1594.



Victoria sixpence.

Elizabeth I sixpence 1593.



Sunday School founder medallion.

Medway History Finders

May meeting

Coin of the Month

1st – Maximianus tetradrachm, John Dobbins
2nd – Vodenos silver unit, Karen Burch

Artefact of the Month

1st – Medieval dagger pommel, Dave Clarke
2nd – Woad grinder Daniella Young
Kevin Mantle



Maximianus tetradrachm.



Vodenos silver unit.

Woad grinder.



Medieval dagger pommel.

Weymouth & Portland MDC



Edward III quarter noble.

Stirrup strap mount.



Sword chape.



Faustina sestertius.



Henry VIII groat.



Crotal bell.

Our June meeting was exceptionally busy, partly because we had Sam Moorhead giving us a talk on the PAS and ancient coins found in Dorset. As anticipated the talk was superb, and afterwards he kindly spent time identifying some members' Roman coins.

Coin of the Month

1st – Edward III quarter noble, Ron Howse
2nd – Faustina sestertius, Joe Dillon
3rd – Henry VIII groat, Allan Carey

Artefact of the Month

1st – Stirrup strap mount, Tom Jones
2nd – Bronze sword chape, Dave Cobb
3rd – Crotal bell, Allan Carey
Mike Apps

SE London MDC



Henry VI silver groat.



Rose farthing.



Victorian clay pipes.



Artefact of the Month

1st – Group of Victorian clay pipes, Gavin
2nd – 18th century bronze seal, Dave

Coin of the Month

1st – 17th century rose farthing, Andy

2nd – Henry VI silver groat, Dave

Also on the finds table this month, unusual and worthy of a mention were two pieces of fossilised dinosaur poo recovered from the Thames foreshore by John.

Andy Richards

Clodhoppers MDC

May Finds of the Month

Summer is upon us and the official detecting season draws closer. We have been busy with rallies including a weekend in May and another one next month. Pictured are Sid and Derek, who won the Finds of the Month – Sid with an Elizabeth I hammered and Derek

with a horse pendant. Both were found at a well-attended Sunday rally. Many other finds have been coming up out of the soil but far too many to include in this piece.

Fingers crossed for a hot summer both weather and finds wise.

Carl Smith (aka Smudge)

Coin of the Month winner Sid with his Elizabeth I hammered.



Artefact of the Month – horse pendant with the finder Derek.





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For membership applications, information and fees please contact:

John Rigby

Tel: 01253 692313 email: jjrigby@sky.com

For other general enquiries please contact:

Trevor Austin

General Secretary

51 Hilltop Gardens

Denaby, Doncaster

DN12 4SA

Tel: 01709 868521

E-mail:

trevor.austin@ncmd.co.uk

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NCMD
NATIONAL COUNCIL FOR METAL DETECTING

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TO PROTECT
TO ENCOURAGE

NATIONAL COUNCIL FOR METAL DETECTING

Mid Kent MDC

17th century token.



Charles I Royal farthing.



Roman brooch.



Henry III silver penny.

Henry VIII groat.



Flintlock trigger and musket balls.



It was nice to have our FLO Jennifer Jackson attend our June meeting, although due to cut-backs she would not be visiting so often, and advised us how to record our finds in future.

Coin of the Month

1st – Henry VIII groat, Derek Sweetman

2nd – Henry III silver penny – Richard of Durham, Tim Hare

3rd – Charles I royal farthing, Sami Dinnelli

Artefact of the Month

1st – 17th century token 'Thomas at Ye Bull', Sami Dinnelli

Joint 2nd – Flintlock trigger and musket balls, Tim Hare and a Roman brooch, Ray Woodger
David Winnett

East Norfolk MDS

James II halfcrown gun money.



Henry VI halfpenny.

Fragment of ansate brooch.



Flint scraper.



Fragment of Saxon scatta.



Toy car.

Our finds table was quite bare at the June meeting, a result of almost no land available for detecting. However, in a club of reasonable size there is usually somebody who has had a lucky month:-

Early Medieval Coin

1st – Fragment of Saxon scatta Series B, Andy Carter

Later Medieval Coin

1st – Henry VI halfpenny, annulet issue, Calais, Andy Carter

2nd – William the Lion of Scotland cut halfpenny, Keith Shaull

Post-Medieval Coin

1st – James II halfcrown gun

money 1690, Martin Wright; this also won the **Tony Gregory Best Find of the Month Award**

2nd – Elizabeth I sixpence 1600, Tim English

Pre-Norman Metal Artefact

1st – Fragment of Mid-Saxon ansate brooch, Andy Carter

2nd – Fragment of Late Saxon strap end, Gerry Cook

Post-Norman Metal Artefact

1st – Toy car, c.1930s, Jason Hurren

2nd – Whistle, Gerry Cook

Natural Find

1st – Small flint scraper, Andy Carter

2nd – Roman pottery assemblage, Tim English
Andy Carter, Chairman

Club and Rally Round-Up

Stour Valley Search & Recovery Club

We held our June meeting as usual on the last Wednesday of the month.

Coin of the Month

1st – Denarius of Hadrian, David Eagles
2nd – Henry VI groat Calais mint, Brian Biddle
3rd – James I shilling 1st issue, 2nd Bust, David Eagles

Denarius of Hadrian.



Belt mount hanger.



James I shilling.



Wareham medallion.



Henry VI groat.



Artefact of the Month

1st – Belt mount hanger, John Hinchcliffe
2nd – Livery Mount 1808 - 1838, Tony Player
3rd – Wareham medallion 1911, John Hinchcliffe
Our new website is now up and running for more information.

Angela Kernan

Livery mount.



Swale Search & Recovery MDC

Pennanluar ring/jaws harp.



Gold ring.



Edward I farthing.



Charles II twopence.



Lead token.



Elizabeth I threepence.



July meeting

Coin of the Month – The winner was John Dobbins' Elizabeth I silver threepence piece. Second place was an Edward I farthing and in third place, a tiny silver Charles II twopence again found by John Dobbins.

The winning **Artefact of the Month** was found by Vivienne Wilson and is a bit of a mystery. It is either an incomplete penannular ring, or the head of a jaws harp. John

Pledge gained second and third place with a modern gold ring and a lead token.

Jacq le Breton, Website Administrator

Eastbourne & District MDC

Chairman Jim Parks made a welcome return to the first July meeting after his long convalescence. Robin Hodgkinson reported on the last club evening outing when the principle finds were a silver brooch and a silver coin. In spite of not too many notable finds, a pleasant evening was enjoyed by all.

May Coins of the Month

1st – Silver Roman Domitian, Darrin F. Simpson
2nd – Henry I silver penny, Darrin F. Simpson
3rd – Victoria gold half sovereign, Chris Cole
Peter Kifford, Competition Secretary

Roman silver Domitian coin.



Henry I penny.



Lune Valley MDC

Victoria Gothic florin.



Elizabeth I sixpence.



Silver sovereign case.



Celtic toggle fastener.

At our June meeting we held a fund-raising event for the Northwest Air Ambulance. Organised by our treasurer Jim Newton, we enjoyed about 40 minutes of fun games, with members donating £1 a go to take part. Adding the proceeds to the profit from a grand raffle, we raised £150.

Pre-1662 Coin – Elizabeth I sixpence, Vera Randall

Post-1662 Coin – Victoria Gothic florin, Ian Sharp

Pre-1500 Artefact – Celtic toggle fastener, Vera Randall

Post-1500 Artefact – Silver sovereign case, Ian Sharp
Meetings are held at 8pm on the first Tuesday of the month at the Lansil Sports and Social Club, Lancaster.

Brian Randall, Chairman

Ipswich & District Detector Club

Our May meeting was another great evening with lots of really good finds on the table to look at. We had a talk on the history of Felixstowe which was very informative with hopefully a second part to come soon.

Coin of the Month was a nice Henry VIII gold crown (double rose, Henry and Katherine of Aragon) and **Artefact of the Month** was a lovely Neolithic axe head.

Meetings are held on the



Henry VIII gold crown.



Neolithic axe head.

last Tuesday of the month at The Rosary Conservative Club, 172 Bramford Road, Ipswich,

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Adrian Pryke, Club Web Administrator

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there will be a close off date for ticket sales
2 weeks prior to the event,
with no exceptions.

Yeovil MDC



George III
halfpenny.



Medieval buckle.



Alexander III
penny.

Codd bottle
marble.



Livery
button.

James Perry's winning
collection.



June meeting

Although this is usually a quiet time of year with most fields under crop, club attendance was impressive this month. The general feeling of enthusiasm was mirrored by the Chairman as he merrily banged away on his brand new gavel and introduced five new members to the club. He thanked the members who helped out at the local Clapton Rally – where just over £2,000 was raised for the Rotary Club.

Pre-1694 Coin – Alexander III penny, Julian Butler

Post-1694 Coin – George III halfpenny, James Perry

Pre-1694 Artefact – Medieval buckle, James Perry

Post-1694 Artefact – Livery button, James Perry

Eyes Only – Codd bottle marble, James Perry

Monthly Collection was won by James Perry
Colin Shaw

Leicestershire MDS

Roman brooch,
David Tyrer.



Elizabeth I
groat,
Nigel
Williams.



Silver cufflinks,
Mick Birtwhistle.



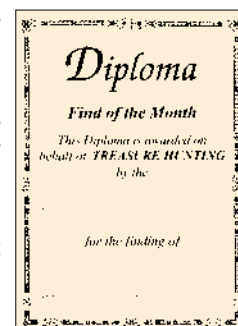
Silver locket, Steve Littlewood.

Our first meeting in July was attended by our local FLO who was kept busy with finds and we had two digs in June which raised over £800 for two local charities.

Gary Wigston

Find of the Month Diplomas

We would like to remind all club PROs and Secretaries that we still have in stock a number of 'Find of the Month Diplomas'. Not only do these certificates give any awards made by clubs a professional touch, but also make an excellent keepsake for the recipients. They are available free of charge. Requests for copies should be marked 'Diplomas' on the envelope and sent to: Treasure Hunting, Greenlight Publishing, 119 Newland Street, Witham, Essex CM8 1WF.



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Club and Rally Round-Up

Four Quarters MDC

We had a great start to our July rallies with Rocketman John continuing his great form with his trusted Garrett. He took the honours with a cracking Bronze Age palstave axe head 1100-1600 BC.



Rocketman John with his Bronze Age palstave axe head.



Martus and his James I halfcrown and Charles I shilling.



Not far away Martus found two hammered silver, one large James I halfcrown and a Charles I shilling.

Martus (Martin Sibley)



Kendal & District MDC



Victoria Gothic florin.



Edward III groat.



Strap end.



Sovereign holder.

June meeting:- Since our last meeting we've held two rallies which took place on a private estate. Finds were not prolific but the quality made up for this as the winners of each section in our competition, all came from the estate rallies. Club members will give up a few hours of detecting time, to give children the chance of detecting at local fetes and county shows during the summer months.

For more information email ianwatedge@aol.com

Pre-1662 Coins

1st – Edward III groat, Ken Sedgwick

2nd – Charles II half groat, George Robinson

Post-1662 Coins

1st – Victoria Gothic florin 1873, Ian Sharp

2nd – Half Moidore coin weight, George Robinson

Pre-1600 Artefacts

1st – 10th-11th century strap end, John Cotton

2nd – Roman plumbata weight, Rod Hall

Post-1600 Artefacts

1st – Silver sovereign holder, Ian Sharp

2nd – William III 1/4 ounce weight, George Robinson

The strap end was the

Overall Find of the Month
Ian Sharp, Secretary

Kingdom of Mercia MDC

The following finds have come from our last few rallies, and two from member's permissions:

Coin of Constantine, Phil Johnston

Henry VI half groat, Mandy Dale (winner of the rally prize 28 June)

Silver hammered of Edward I, Peter Leese

George I shilling 1723 and Victoria sixpence 1875, Richard Bissell (winner of the rally prize 19 June)

George III silver sixpence, Phil Johnston

Charles I silver crown, Tower Mint, Chris Cooper

Victor Ludorum medallion, Steven Bialek

We now have a new website at: <http://www.kingdomofmercia.uk>

Chris Cooper, Secretary

Coin of Constantine.



Charles I crown.



George I shilling.



Victoria sixpence.

George III sixpence.



Coin of Edward I.

Henry VI half groat.



Victor Ludorum medallion.

Blackpool MDC

Victoria shilling.



Hadrian denarius.



Victoria halfcrown.



1940s army razor.



Victorian fob ring.



Spindle whorl.



Edward IV groat.



Despite the blistering heat, our intrepid members have been out and about, digging into soil that gets like concrete at this time of the year.

We meet at 8pm on the first Thursday of every month in the upper room at the Conservative Club in Tyldesley Road Blackpool. All are welcome.

Pre-1662 Coins

1st – Hadrian denarius, Dan Wrathall

2nd – Edward IV groat London mint, Keith Phillipson

Post-1662 Coins

1st – Victoria halfcrown 1877, Keith Phillipson

2nd – Victoria shilling 1840, Nigel Meakin

Pre-1500 Artefacts

One entry – Medieval lead spindle whorl, Keith Phillipson

Post-1500 Artefacts

1st – Victorian fob ring, Dan Wrathall

2nd – 1940s army-issue brass razor, Keith Phillipson

Gary Thornton, PRO



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Frome Hoard Update

In the January 2014 issue of *Treasure Hunting*, I described how I found a scattered Roman silver hoard of *siliquae*. In the following article of April 2015, I wrote about how the small first hoard led to the finding of the main Frome Hoard, and the subsequent events of helping the archaeologists dig it up. Here, in the third and last article, I would like to talk about all the things that happened afterwards and how they have changed my life.

On that Saturday in April 2010 I locked the gates and drove home, thinking that it was all over bar the shouting – but how wrong I was!

It all seemed a bit of a let-down now: the digging of the coins, all the detailed recording, and everybody's efforts over the last three days; now it seemed surreal, like it had been a dream. Of course, I did not realise that my find would cause such a stir and that the subsequent publicity would go around the world and get me my 15 minutes of fame. Everybody involved was asked to keep it all quiet as they wanted to do a big press release at the inquest later that year.

The Geophysics Survey

The next day I was back at work as if nothing had happened. So it was out of the blue that I received a call from Roger Bland of the Portable Antiquities Scheme (PAS) asking if I had any objections to having a geophysics survey done. The next weekend I went along to watch, but there was really nothing to see, just the team walking up and down. They found nothing: no villa, no walls, no ditches; just a hole where our pot had been, and this was in the middle of nowhere. I was a little disappointed, but I hadn't expected anything else.

Clean and Dry

Meanwhile in the British Museum, a decision had been taken to wash, dry and sort the coins as soon as possible to ensure they stayed in good condition. They had originally been put in a large refrigeration unit to keep them damp. The coins were still in the separate marked bags, which held 700-1000 coins each. The conservation team washed and then dried the coins singly on large trays; this took eight weeks. At the same time, the two managers, with assistance from other key staff, sorted each numbered

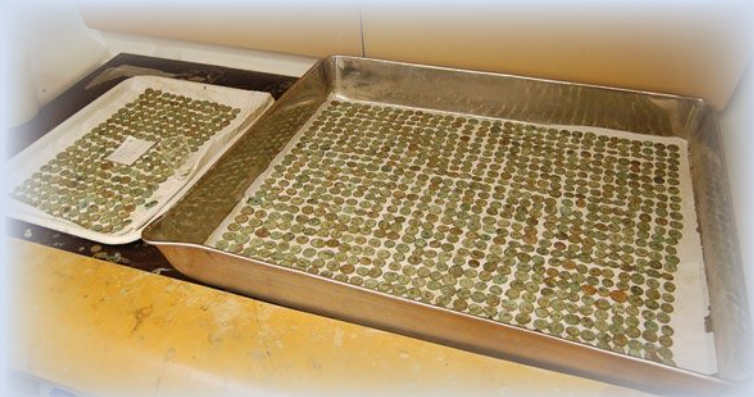
bag separately into different emperors etc. This took them 10 weeks. From this they could still tell just where each coin came from in the pot. I never realised just how much work was involved in a hoard like this: they did a fantastic job.

Television Fame

It was about a month later that Roger phoned again: "Would you be interested in helping on a TV programme called *Digging for Britain*?" It was a new BBC series about archaeology, and included some of the most recent finds from metal detectorists. I was interviewed and filmed with Dr. Alice Roberts, and I found her very pleasant to work with. Later, after the inquest and the news broke, I did a bit of work for ITV on *Britain's Secret Treasures* with the 50



Geophysics survey (above), and some of the coins drying (below).



Dr. Alice Roberts.

greatest finds. Then came interviews for a Brazilian documentary company; and lastly, a Japanese TV show, which came out like a Benny Hill sketch.

The Inquest

I had kept the coroner informed within the 14 days as the law states, and each time, I had asked for no publicity until the day of the inquest. This is one of the things that I believed that you can request if you find yourself in a similar situation.

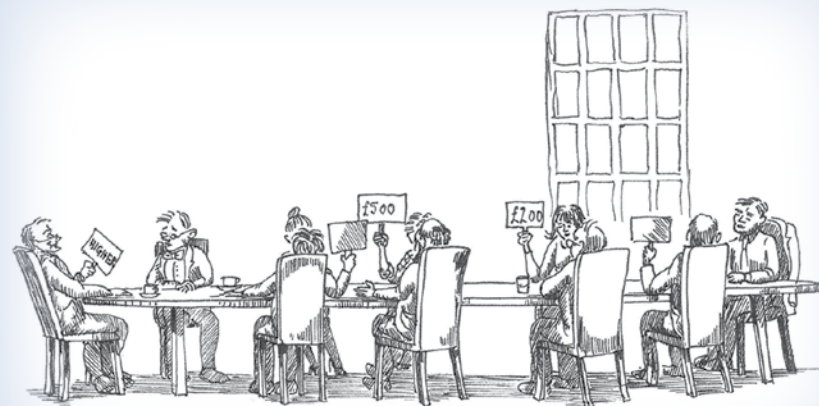
It was early July when the PAS were ready for an inquest to determine if the hoard was Treasure. It was planned so that the inquest day would also be the announcement about the hoard. So much for planning – the Coroner's Office immediately announced it to the press. Within hours my house was surrounded by TV crews and I was headlines. The phone never stopped ringing (so much for asking for no publicity!). Suddenly I was doing interviews for the evening news in my garden for the BBC and ITV. The first TV news I did was live, and I was talking to, and answering questions from the news team in London but being filmed in my garden. Isn't technology great? That was a little nerve-racking.

Over the next month I did many interviews on TV and radio from stations across the world. Of course, the papers had a field day with the money side. The papers had a great time: the best one was the *Daily Express* coming up with a silly figure of £3.3 million, months even before the valuation.

The Coroner's Inquest, which is a legal formality, was to be held in Frome with a public display of some of the coins in the afternoon. This was the first time the public had been given an opportunity to see any of the coins. The Coroner was a nice chap and, after he had heard from the FLO, he asked me to take the stand, and tell my story as to how I found the hoard.

Frome Display Afternoon

Roger Bland, Sam Moorhead and other staff from the British Museum (BM) and Taunton Museum had organised an afternoon display in The Frome Library of some of the coins. That was an amazing day with 2,000 people queuing to see the coins. The interest people showed that day was fantastic. Because of all the curiosity, the British Museum later put on two separate displays of a variety of the coins, and with all the press and TV coverage these created a lot of interest.



Treasure Valuation Committee at work (above), and first display in the British Museum (left).

I spent two days just standing there just talking to visitors about the hoard.

Treasure Valuation Committee

The committee asked two large auction houses to come in and put an estimated provisional valuation of what the hoard would fetch on the open market: you are sent a provisional valuation letter before the committee sits. But because there was such a difference in the two totals, they asked a third set of experts. From this starting figure, the TVC debated and reached a decision on what the hoard was worth. It was valued at a total of £320,000, which was to be split 50/50 between the owner of the land and myself. I was very pleased with this figure, as was the landowner, and I felt this was a fair valuation. It was actually more than I had estimated.

Timescale

So when was the pot buried? Well, the emperor Carausius was a prominent

figure at the time, and we know he died in AD 293. There were over 700 of his coins in the hoard, but none of Allectus, who took over and managed to hang on to power for just two years. As there are none of his coins in the pot, it must have been buried just before, or very soon after, Carausius' death.

Sam Moorhead in the BM is studying the 700 odd coins of Carausius found mixed in with the other radiates and is soon to publish a report on them. Of the coins that we know so far, the vast majority are base silver radiates. Some are in better condition than others and the majority only have 5% (or less) of silver. This means that most are bronze with a little silver in them or are silver plated. There are five exceptional *denarii* coins which were minted by Carausius in this country. These coins, as with all those issued by each emperor, are used to communicate with the people and troops: they are the SMS of their time, the e-mails to all and sundry. This was the information



Sam Moorhead giving information about the coins.



Carausius riding in.

Cabbage seller's bank?
52,000
cabbages sold.



An offering to the gods.



and propaganda that helped an emperor stay in power once he was there!

The illustration, shows him on a horse riding triumphantly, probably into London, and just speaks for itself: 'Hail the victor, hail the liberator!' The present day spin doctors of government have nothing on this bloke!

We know that there are about 20 emperors' coins in the pot plus those of a few wives, with a couple deified after their deaths; and the coins cover a range of approximately 40 years.

The Hoard Home At Last

It was on 29 September 2011 that

the hoard pot with some of the coins returned to Somerset, this time to the newly renovated £6.5 million Taunton Museum. They have put the large pot back together. I suppose for the staff at the British Museum it was just like a large jigsaw (all you needed was a bit of superglue, some sticky tape and a lot of patience). It's a curious fact that the broken bits of pot were also declared Treasure by association with the coins.

Display

Round the base of the pot there are scattered a couple of hundred radiates, which is all they have in the museum

at the moment. The five exceptional silver *denarii* take pride of place, on their own little plinth on the left. Around the glass display cabinet, on three sides, are the stories in photos: of the coins and a little of the excavation, with some of the people involved. This was only the first display of the hoard in its new home. There were plans to have it moved upstairs with the other hoards and displays, but this hasn't happened yet. The majority of the coins are still being cleaned and studied in the BM; and Sam Moorhead hopes to have the catalogue of the Carausian coins done by August.

I expect one day they will all be on display together. Possibly the silver hoard of *siliquae* could also be used to illustrate the continuity of a sacred place being used to safeguard a second hoard 100 years later.

Why Was It There?

Well, the truth is that nobody knows. However, the experts and myself think the only reasonable explanation is that they were buried for the gods. The Romans' gods formed an essential part of their daily lives. We know that they believed they could influence the world around them by giving gifts into water (e.g. coins, brooches etc.), so it's only a small step to envisage that a large gift was needed (e.g. to improve the weather), and that a pot in the ground filled with small change from a nearby community might do the trick. As a joke I suggested that it might have been a cabbage seller's bank and gave a picture of one to the PAS team: I believe it's still on their wall in their office in the BM.

The Right Ending

I am, and always will be, the finder of the Frome Hoard, the largest single hoard of Roman coins ever found, but it has always belonged to the Romanised Somerset people. When this pot was buried, in AD 293-294, the Romans had been here for well over 200 years in the form of military personnel, administrators, tradesmen, artisans and civilians. All of these people, generations of Romans, intermingled with the local tribes. Some of them married native women, and children from each group mixed the Roman and Celtic genes. Some of the present people of Somerset are possibly the descendants of those for whom the hoard was so important. So who better to have the responsibility of safeguarding the hoard for future generations? **TH**

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Far and Wide

4,000-Year-Old Stone Circle



Geophysical testing at the Sittaford Tor site has enabled researchers to date it to at least 4,000 years ago.

The first radio-carbon testing ever carried out on a stone circle on Dartmoor's open moorland shows that the stones at the ring near Sittaford Tor fell over 4,000 years ago, which suggests they could have been constructed well before this.

Mike Nendick, from Dartmoor National Park authority, said the dating showed that the ring, 34 metres in diameter, could be of a similar age to Stonehenge, or even older.

The circle, on the northern part of the moor, is the first on Dartmoor to have been investigated in 100 years, and at an altitude of 525 metres is

the highest in southern England. Thirty of the stones in the ring are now lying flat, but researchers believe they once stood upright because of packing material found around their bases.

The Sittaford Tor circle was originally uncovered in 2007 by Alan Endacott, an independent academic researcher, when the stones were unearthed in a controlled burn. But next to nothing was known about the circle until geophysicists carried out the recent carbon dating, because a lack of funding meant no research could take place.

Roman Gold Hoard Bought

A hoard of Roman gold coins found in St Albans has been bought by one of the city's



museums for nearly £100,000. The coins, discovered by Westley Carrington during his first metal detecting outing in October 2012, were scattered across a wide area.

They were mostly struck in the Italian cities of Milan and Ravenna and issued under the Emperors Gratian, Valentinian, Theodosius, Arcadius and Honorius.

The 159 coins will go on display at Verulamium Museum from mid-September.

Viking Dragon

An interesting find from Birka in Sweden has come to light, where archaeologists have discovered a bronze dragon, which may have originally formed part of an ornate dress pin.

One of the most iconic images from Viking Age Sweden, the Birka Dragon had previously only been known from a soapstone mould that was uncovered in the 1870s.

Although the artefact is still in a pre-conservation state and as a result highly corroded, the outline of Birka's famous dragon can just be discerned.

"We did not understand immediately what we found, it took a few minutes," said Sven Kalmring, professor at the Zentrum für Baltische und Skandinavische Archäologie, who carried out the archaeological excavation along with the Department of Archaeology at Stockholm University.

The dragon's head has now been sent for conservation and will eventually be put on display in a local museum.



Founded in the late 8th century AD, Birka was an important early Viking port which handled goods from all over Scandinavia as well as Western and Eastern Europe.

Archaeological excavations at the site have revealed extensive evidence for both burial and habitation activity, indicating that it was once a thriving settlement. However, in the late 10th century it appears to have been abandoned, possibly due to sea level changes and competition from rival ports.

Rare Thor's Hammer



to about AD 800-950, is 34mm long, 24mm wide and weighs 5.6gm. Previously there were only 13 known findings of Thor's hammers in Norway, the minority being made of silver. By comparison, there have only been 3,500 Viking swords found.

Metal Detecting Norway (Norges Metallsøkerforening) describes the hammer as follows:-

"The hammer, with the name Mjölir, is the historically most famous image of the Iron Age's Old Norse belief. Mjölir was forged by the dwarfs Sindri and Brokk, and was a gift to Thor from Loki. Thor was the God of Thunder and his most powerful weapon against the jötnar giants was Mjölir.

The hammer is decorated with different rings, half rings and small squares stamped into the silver. The decor could at first sight appear random, but study it and then you see that it is beautiful and thoughtful. The shape of the hammer is also beautiful."

Recently, Magne Oksnes found something quite unique with his metal detector on a farm in Steinkjer, Central Norway: a beautiful Thor's hammer pendant from the Viking Age made of silver and in excellent condition.

The silver hammer is dated

Far and Wide

Silver Dollars Recovered

It took more than seven decades, but England has finally got its delivery of tons of silver coins from the ocean floor.

For most of those years, the money was deep at the bottom of the Atlantic, the monetary casualty of a cruel Second World War sinking.

In November 1942, the unguarded *SS City of Cairo* was sunk by a German U-boat while carrying 296 civilians and a cargo that included 100 tons of silver.

The vessel sunk to more than 16,800 feet under the surface (5,150 metres) where it went undiscovered until 2011 when Deep Ocean Search decided to go looking for it.

The *City of Cairo* was bringing silver rupees from India to England as part of the war effort. After a stop in Brazil, two torpedoes sank the ship in the Atlantic.

After the ship went down, the U-boat reportedly surfaced and the captain said to the survivors in lifeboats: "Goodnight, sorry for sinking you."

Only a handful of people died as the ship sank but about 100 more passed away during the desperate attempt of the six boats to make it to land, which was hundreds of miles away.

When the last of the lifeboats was found 51 days later, all but two people in it had died.

Deep Ocean Search said in a news release that during the 2011 search it located an unnatural object on radar. A sub found the *City of Cairo* split into two parts, buried by silt.

"Under contract to the UK Ministry of Transport, DOS recovered tons of silver coins from a depth of 5,150 meters," the company said, "the depth is a world record."



Black Forest Girl

The famous Bronze Age Egtved Girl did not originally come from Denmark, but from far away, as revealed by strontium isotope analyses of the girl's teeth which show that she was born and raised outside Denmark's current borders. Also strontium isotope analyses of the girl's hair and a thumb nail show that she travelled great

distances the last two years of her life.

The wool from the Egtved Girl's clothing, the blanket she was covered with, and the oxtide she was laid to rest on in the oak coffin all originate from a location outside present-day Denmark.

The combination of the different provenance analyses indicates that the Egtved Girl, her clothing, and the oxtide come from Schwarzwald (the 'Black Forest') in South West Germany – as do the cremated remains of a six-year-old child who was buried with the Egtved Girl.

The girl's coffin dates the burial to a summer day in the year 1370 BC.



Rare Scottish Brooches on Display



Glenlyon brooch (above) and Breadalbane brooch (right).



A rare pair of ancient Scottish brooches are to go on public display in Perth for the first time since the 19th century.

The Glenlyon and Breadalbane brooches are on loan to the Perth Museum and Art Gallery from the British Museum for a special exhibition, which runs until 16 August 2015.

The Glenlyon brooch was a treasured family heirloom of the Campbells of Glenlyon, who probably commissioned it; it was bought at auction by the British Museum in 1897.

It is thought to have been made in Scotland during the medieval period and was used as a reliquary brooch, though the relic chamber is now empty.

The relic may commemorate an act of pilgrimage to the shrine of the Three Kings in Germany, as the back of the brooch is engraved with the name of the three kings from

the nativity – Jaspar, Melchior and Balthazar – along with Christ's reputed last words on the cross: "Consumatum Est" (it is finished).

The Breadalbane brooch was found in the area, but there is no record of when or where. It is believed to have been made in the 9th century and at some point was modified from a complete ring to a penannular brooch.

The brooches will be joined on display by a range of medieval artefacts acquired by Perth Museum through Scottish Treasure Trove, along with additional loans from National Museums Scotland and the Clan Donnachaidh Trust.

Sword Made from a Meteor

A sword forged from a fallen meteorite is sitting in Japan's tallest building. It is 'The Sword of Heaven', a katana forged from a 4-billion-year old meteor.

The katana, which sits on display at the base of the Tokyo Skytree, was made by Japan's foremost sword smith, Yoshindo Yoshiwara, from a piece of the Gibeon meteorite, an iron space-rock found near the town of Gibeon, Namibia in 1838.

"I never compromise my craft," explains Yoshiwara. "It is easy to make a compromise. But we hold our pride and devote our lives to creating swords."

The polished katana isn't the same colour as the meteorite. This

all has to do with what happens to a meteor when it hits Earth's atmosphere. While soaring through space, the original meteor would have appeared that same bright, reflective silver, but extreme heat causes elements in the outer-most layer to melt and fuse together, resulting in regmaglypts that look like dark 'thumb prints'.



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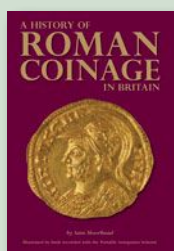
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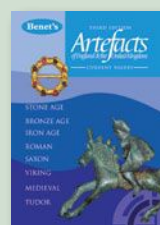
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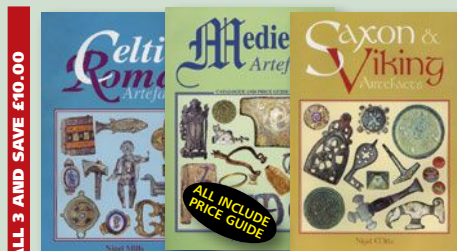
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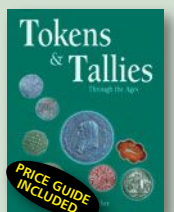
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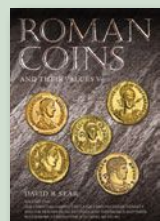


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Auction round-up

TimeLine Auctions, London. 27-30 May 2015

* Prices with buyer's commission inclusive of VAT.



Continuing the trend, two Viking period items proved popular in TimeLine's May London sale. Lot 959, a bracelet of plaited gold wire with splayed terminals fetched £29,760. Another Viking item, Lot 1005, a silver-gilt pendant with a twisted gripping beast, made £13,640. From the medieval period, a standard type 14th-15th century gold finger ring with a sapphire cabochon achieved £9,920. It was found near Emsworth, Hampshire in 2014 and disclaimed under the Treasure Act. Our database of buyers is second to none, and our system provides a more enjoyable experience than other auction options.

Lot 003

Greek gold ring, 2nd-1st century BC. A very large round-section hoop with wire collars to each end, ovoid plaque to the underside with inset amethyst cabochon, stepped hexagonal bezel with ovoid cell and inset large amethyst cabochon, 15gm, 35mm overall, 24.07mm internal diameter, EF condition, rare.



Sold for £10,540

Lot 068

Egyptian portrait, 1st-2nd century AD. A fabric-backed wooden veneer panel with painted portrait of a female in dark red robe with two-strand necklace of green beads, drop earrings, 38gm, 35.5cm. F condition; possibly some repainting.



Sold for £1,488

Lot 208

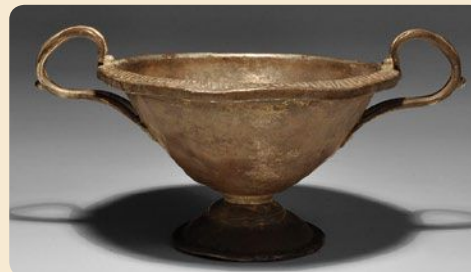


Roman gold intaglio ring, 1st-2nd century AD. A barrel-shaped hoop with applied filigree borders

and rope work, scrolled shoulders with granule detailing, discoid plaque with beaded border, raised cell with inset carnelian cabochon, intaglio design of a standing dog, 5.95gm, 21mm overall, 17.55mm internal diameter, EF condition.

Sold for £2,604

Lot 225



Roman two-handled cup, 1st-2nd century AD. A silver cup comprising a domed foot with punched annulets to the rim and

waist, broad bowl with square-section rim, radiating punch marks, two lateral cage handles with granules to the rim and outer edge, leaf finials; to the centre an applied repoussé disc with profile bearded head within a rope work border, 110gm, 13cm, F condition.

Sold for £713

Lot 311



Large Roman mirror, 1st-2nd century AD. A large full-size mirror with a wide flange edge, one polished face; the reverse decorated with concentric ribs, decreasing to a raised central boss, 420gm, 20cm, F condition.

Sold for £682

Lot 349



Sold for £347

Roman gold medical instrument, 1st century BC-2nd century AD. A medical or cosmetic spoon comprising a round-section gold shank with ribbed collars, pierced plaque and knob finial, angled flat bowl below, 1.64gm, 45mm, EF condition.

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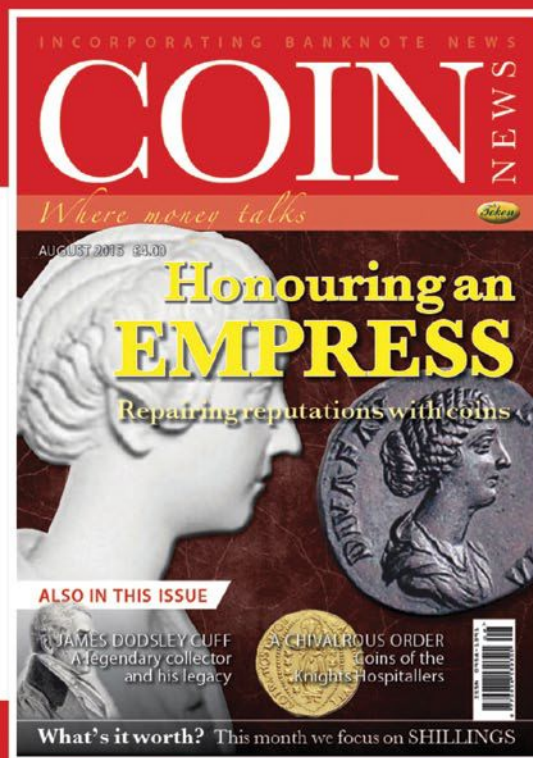
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Auction round-up continued

* Prices with buyer's commission inclusive of VAT.

Lot 437



Roman bust intaglio, 1st-3rd century AD. A discoid nicolo plaque with a helmeted and bearded bust intaglio, 0.57gm, 13mm, VF condition.

Sold for £372

Lot 453

Byzantine gold pendant with chain, late 6th century AD. A substantial gold cruciform pendant with four hollow bottle-shaped arms; a discoid plaque with central cell, four radiating pellet triangles, inset cabochon garnet; substantial ribbed loop above; gold ladder chain with ribbed tubular finials, hook and eye closure, 60gm total, pendant 52mm, chain, 69cm, F condition.



Sold for £17,360

Lot 550



Anglo-Saxon gold beast pendant, 9th century AD. A triangular gold pendant with slightly convex edges and integral cast loop; the central keyed field with reserved beast in Trehwiddle style with returned twisted tail, 3.44gm, 24mm, VF condition.

Sold for £5,580

Lot 639

Bronze Age gold bracelet, 2nd millennium BC. A penannular round-section gold bracelet with tapering ends, 35gm, 74mm, VF condition.



Sold for £2,976

Lot 467



Byzantine gold fretwork panel, 8th-12th century AD. A gold rectangular panel with beaded

border enclosing a fretwork design of two peacocks amid fruit and foliage facing a vessel surmounted by a cross; pierced at the border for attachment; 12gm, 99mm, VF condition.

Sold for £4,997

Lot 528

Gothic gold sword boss, 6th century AD. A discoid plaque with beaded wire border, domed boss with interlocking garnet cloisonné and central roundel; carinated loop to the reverse, 9.11gm, 23mm, EF condition.



Sold for £4,464

Lot 601



Stone Age hand axe, Palaeolithic, 350,000-250,000 BP. A bifacial British knapped hand axe of good quality with finely worked tapered edges and rounded butt, the tip with ancient

Sold for £397

modification; the surfaces with heavy river gravel patination, 532gm, 16.8cm, F condition.

Lot 722

Gold decorated posy ring, 17th century AD. A barrel-shaped hoop with raised scrolled tendrils to the outer face; inscribed to the inner face in serif italic letters 'Vertue is honnor'; maker's mark 'R' in a square recess with angled corners, 1.40gm, 16mm overall, 15.26mm internal diameter, F condition.



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Auction round-up continued

Lot 772

Gold fob seal matrix, 18th century AD. A gold fob seal with scrolled arms to the rear and ribbed loop; inset carved carnelian matrix with intaglio design of a bird in flight with a letter in its beak bearing a cross, the word 'CROYEZ' (believe!), probably a religious motif, 4.20gm, 15mm, EF condition.



Sold for £273

Lot 824

Viking gold ring, 9th-10th century AD. A gold hoop of tapering twisted rods with twisted wire covering the junctions; plain round-section section to the underside, 18gm, 30mm overall, 20.09mm internal, EF condition.



Sold for £14,880

Lot 843



Viking elf-shot pendant, 9th-12th century AD. A silver-gilt ribbed sleeve and loop with inset lentoid-section banded stone blade, 0.99gm, 18mm, EF condition, very rare.

Sold for £1,860

Lot 918



Scandinavian box brooch, 7th century AD. A bronze box brooch with traces of original gilding, discoid in plan with slightly tapering sidewall with a band of dense interlace; the upper face with a triskele of beasts each executed in three-strand banding with profile bird-head, pellet to the neck and pellet eye, all

Sold for £5,580 surrounding a central pellet; hollow to the reverse with catchplate and pin-lug, remains of ferrous pin, 33gm, 44mm, EF condition.

Lot 923

Viking bird with cross brooch, 10th century AD. An Anglo-Scandinavian bronze plate brooch of a bird in profile with equal-arm cross on its back, linear detail to the wing and tail, pellet eye, loop below the chest; pin-lugs and catchplate to the reverse, 9.18gm, 34mm, F condition.



Sold for £422

Lot 960



Viking gold bracelet, 8th-12th century AD. A spiral-wound gold tapering penannular bracelet with beast-head finials, 22gm, 64mm, VF condition.

Sold for £5,952

Lot 1062



Viking raven pendant, 10th-11th century AD. A bronze discoid Scandinavian type pendant (also widespread in the historical Rus region), with central raven motif with spread wings, raised border, 5.60gm, 32mm, Fair condition; loop cracked, rare.

Sold for £446

Lot 1119



Viking eagle shield mount pair, 10th-12th century AD. A matched pair of bronze mounts, each a bird with claw raised to the beak, pelleted collar and billet detailing to the wing, 44gm total, 52mm, VF condition.

Sold for £893

Auction round-up continued

Lot 1211



Viking bearded axe head, 9th-11th century AD. A hand-forged iron axe head with scooped socket, broad blade with extension to

the lower edge, hole to the blade; Baltic workmanship. 441 grams, 14cm VF condition, professionally cleaned and conserved.

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Lot 1428

Master of animals finial, 1250-600 BC. Western Asiatic Luristan bronze openwork bifacial finial comprising a tubular socket, two feline hind legs, flared skirt and belt, two feline heads flanking a male mask, 203gm, 10cm, F condition.



Sold for £5,208

Lot 1608



Gilt iconographic finger ring, 15th century AD. A faceted silver-gilt ring with D-section hoop, raised beaded bands and foliage to the shoulders; rectangular bezel with scooped shorter ends; bezel with reserved bearded

figure of St John the Evangelist holding a chalice, 4.12gm, 24mm overall, 21.83mm internal, diameter, F condition.

Sold for £744

Lot 1709

Heraldic horse harness pendant, 14th-15th century AD. A bronze heater-shaped pendant with loop above, enamelled heraldic device blazoned 'Azure a bend Argent cotised Or between six lions rampant of the same', the arms of the Bohun family, 10gm, 45mm, Fair condition, loop broken.



Sold for £211

Lot 1287



Assyrian ritual tablet, 750-650 BC. A rectangular ceramic tablet with cuneiform text; accompanied by a copy of an old scholarly note, typed and signed Professor by W.G. Lambert, 80gm, 95mm, F condition, rare.

Sold for £2,356

Lot 1589

Gold decorated archer's ring, 13th-15th century AD. A gold flat-section hoop with triangular flange extension, incised scrolled patterns to the flange, 19.33gm, 40mm overall, 22.03mm internal diameter. EF condition, very rare.



Sold for £3,100

Lot 1645



Vessica seal matrix, 13th-14th century AD. A bronze vessica flat seal with intaglio design of Mother and Child under canopy and praying monk below; with incuse 'S' WALTERI DE NEWENT CLERICI inscription for Clerk Walter of Newent

(Gloucestershire); with collector record cards, museum quality impression and ticket, 6.9gm, 30.50mm, VF condition.

Sold for £682

Lot 1783

Greek Chalcidian helmet, 5th-4th century BC. A bronze helmet of Chalcidian type with narrow skull and carinated lower edge, short neck-guard with flared outer edge, 1.5 kg, 29cm, F condition, restored.



Sold for £11,780

Lot 2015



George I halfcrown, dated 1720 over 1717. Obv: profile bust with GEORGIVS D G M BR FR ET HIB REX F D

legend. Rev: cruciform arms with rose or plume in angles with BRVN ET L DVX S R I A TH ET EL legend and date. Edge: with raised DECVS ET TVTAMEN ANNO REGNI SEXTO legend, 14.82gm, Good F condition, scarce.

Sold for £1,860

Lot 2162

Trajan denarius, AD 111, Rome mint. Obv: IMP TRAIANO AVG GER DAC PM TRP legend with laureate head right, slight drapery on left shoulder. Rev: COS V PP SQPR OPTIMO PRINC legend with Victory standing right, foot on rock, inscribing DA-CI-CA on a shield set on a palm stump, 3.41gm, EF condition.



Sold for £236

Lot 2256



Luiva II Spanish gold tremissis, AD 601-603. Regal series, Seville. Obv: stylised facing bust with +LIVVA REX legend. Rev:

stylised facing bust with +ISPALIPVS legend, 1.42gm, near as struck, rare.

Sold for £1,674

Lot 2302

Charles I Briot milled shilling, 1638-1639. Second milled issue, late bust. Obv: profile bust with mark of value XII behind and CAROLVS D G MAG BRIT FR ET HIB REX legend with 'anchor-and-B' mintmark. Rev: cross over arms with CHRISTO AVSPICE REGNO legend, 5.72gm, VF condition, scarce.



Sold for £744

Lot 2107



Catuvellauni Tasciovanus silver unit, 50-5 BC. Obv: profile bust right with TASCIAA in front. Rev: bull butting left with pellets around, 1.12gm,

Sold for £471

Good VF condition; near as struck, very rare.

Lot 2254

Merovingian gold tremissis, 6th century AD. Attributed to Rouen or region. Obv: crude profile bust right with +[]V COL[N?] legend. Rev: small cross with angle and pellet below and MT[]O[] legend, 1.18gm, near as struck.



Sold for £1,054

Lot 2290



Edward VI fine shilling, 1551-1553. Fine silver issue. Obv: facing bust with rose left and mark of value XII right and EDWARD

Sold for £521

VI D G AGL FRA Z HIB REX legend and 'y' mintmark. Rev: long cross over arms with POSVI DEV ADIVTORE MEV legend, 6.06gm, Good VF condition.

Lot 2313

William and Mary copper halfpenny, dated 1694. Obv: profile jugate busts with GVLIELMVS ET MARIA legend.



Rev: Britannia seated with BRITANNIA legend and date in exergue, 12.24gm. Almost Uncirculated, some lustre but weakly struck on a porous flan (especially the reverse).

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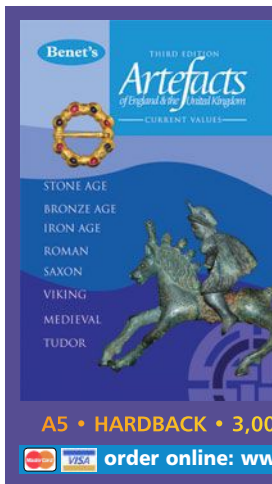
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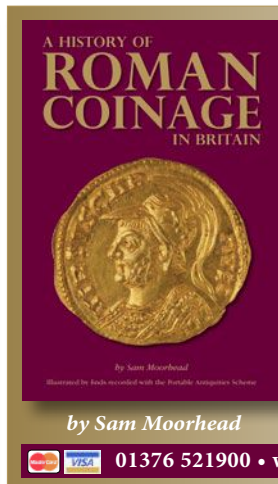
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